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# Record equalling Messi begins with hat-trick

**MBAPPE** brace in France's **3-1** win over Senegal

**HAALAND** strikes twice in Norway's **4-1** romp

Argentina blank Algeria 3-0 as star forward nets **16th WC goal**

P16 & 17

# India-UK free trade deal to come into effect on July 15

## Implementation of social security pact from same day

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal during the CETA signing. PTI FILE PHOTO

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the United Kingdom, which was signed last year, will come into effect on July 15.

"This agreement will significantly boost our bilateral trade and investment," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X on Wednesday.

The decision was taken during a meeting of Modi with his British counterpart Keir Starmer at the G7 Leaders' Summit in France.

"Both PM Starmer and I, who are in Evian for the G7 Summit, are naturally very happy with the significant momentum being added to our economic ties," Modi said.

The two countries have also agreed to implement the agreement on social security, referred to as the Double Contribution Convention, from July 15. The agreement is expected to make it easier for Indian professionals to work in the UK.

"The simultaneous enforcement of the CETA and the Double Contribution Convention on July 15, 2026, will open up significant new opportunities for India's exports," said Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

The UK will provide zero-duty access to 99% of Indian products, while India has agreed to eliminate tariffs on 90% of UK product lines.

▸ India-UK deal, Page 5

## India-EU FTA by 2026-end

India and the European Union will sign the free trade agreement by the end of this year, top EU leader Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday after holding talks with PM Modi that focused on boosting two-way economic engagement.

Details on Page 13

# Trump says Iran pact to be signed 'shortly'

EVIAN (FRANCE), AFP

Tehran suggested that Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian could sign the deal.

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he expected the accord with Iran ending the war to be signed "shortly" but cast uncertainty over the exact date as US officials dictated the memorandum of understanding to journalists.

"The deal we reached with Iran on Sunday will be signed shortly, tomorrow (Thursday), maybe the next day (Friday)," Trump said after previous announcements that it would be signed on Friday with Vice President J D Vance representing the US.

Trump said he "might" stay in Europe for the signing but added that as a memorandum "it might not be the kind of a document I should be signing". Iran suggested that its deal could be signed by Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Asked if sending Vance to the signing rather than going himself was to avoid blame if it did not work out, Trump replied: "I like that idea."

"If it works out I am going to take the credit, if it doesn't work out I'm blaming JD! You better be careful JD! He is going to turn his plane around and get the hell out of here!"

According to US officials, the draft includes a "minimum" standard for down-blending of Iranian uranium and ensuring the "territorial integrity" of Lebanon.

Draft MoU outlines truce, sanctions relief, Page 12

# US will help if India comes under attack: Trump

## After meeting Modi, US prez says 'very close' to trade deal

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

PM Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump meet on the sidelines of the G7 summit, on Wednesday. AP/PTI

As long as Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains at the helm in New Delhi, India will receive support from the United States in dealing with any external attack, President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, adding that the two sides were "very close" to signing the much-awaited trade deal.

Modi and Trump held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Évian-les-Bains in France, almost 1.5 years after they had their last.

The meeting was seen as a move to reset the bilateral ties, which came under stress over the US president's tariff tirade against India and his growing bonhomie with the civil-military leaders of Pakistan.

"He's a very tough negotiator. He is the most beautiful-looking man. He looks so nice, like an angel," Trump said about Modi, and quickly added, "Actually, he's as tough as he is a killer. But he looks so good. So, he gets you by surprise. But there are a few people like this. People say he's such a nice man. I said he's very tough. He's a tough trader," the US president went on, as the prime minister chuckled.

> I think it is a great relationship... If they (India) were attacked, we would be there to help them. If anybody attacks that man (Modi), we are going to be there.
>
> **DONALD TRUMP,** US President

Modi said that he and the US president "reviewed the sustained progress" in bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, defence, technology and people-to-people ties.

Trump's comment on the deal came just days before US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer's proposed visit to New Delhi. Greer will meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to give "final touches" to the first tranche of the proposed trade agreement.

"If they were attacked, we would be there to help them. If anybody attacks that man, we are going to be there," Trump said, pointing at Modi. "If they are attacked and he (Modi) is the leader, we are going to be there to help," he said, in response to a question by a journalist on the defence cooperation between India and the US.

"Now, if there's a new leader (in India), I'm not sure about it (support to India in case of an external aggression)," Trump said jokingly with Modi, sitting by his side, smiling.

▸ Modi-Trump, Page 6

## Seafaring a rough job, says Trump on ship attacks

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Seafaring is a "rough profession", President Donald Trump on Wednesday said on the killing of three mariners from India in an attack by the United States Navy on a commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz last week, adding that such incidents had been "happening throughout time".

Trump had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Évian-les-Bains in eastern France, a week after the death of three Indians in the US Navy's attack on MT Settebello near the Strait of Hormuz.

"I heard about that. It's a rough profession. There is no question about that. We (India and the US) work together on this," Trump said, when a journalist asked him about the death of the Indians in the June 10 attack.

▸ Ship attacks, Page 6

## Shiv Sena (UBT) heading for split?

**MUMBAI, DHNS:** As the BJP seeks to bolster the NDA's strength in Parliament, there is growing buzz about a section of Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs camping in Delhi to seek a merger with the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde.

Sensing trouble, the party rushed its top leaders to Delhi to meet Speaker Om Birla. "The Shiv Sena (UBT) continues to be recognised as a single party represented through its authorised leader," the party told Birla.

Details on Page 10
'SP heading for split', P10

11 deaths in 24 hrs

## Mysuru Jayadeva says cases critical

Even as 11 deaths were reported at the Jayadeva Hospital in Mysuru within a span of 24 hours, medical superintendent of the hospital, Dr K S Sadananda, attributed the deaths to delayed admission of critically-ill patients.

P 6

NEET re-exam

## HC notice to Centre on Telegram ban

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by Telegram challenging the government's decision to temporarily block access to the app, ahead of the NEET re-examination scheduled for June 21.

P 7

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# Man stabs friend to death after fight over Rs 5,000 loan

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 29-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his friend in Suddaguntepalya on Tuesday following a quarrel over a Rs 5,000 loan and derogatory remarks made against the latter's mother and sister, police said.

The deceased, Sheikh Wasim, and the accused, Syed Saleem, 30, were schoolmates and close friends who met frequently.

Wasim worked as an AC mechanic, while Saleem is employed at a tent house.

According to police, a group of friends had gathered at Nimhans Layout around 12.30 pm.

During the conversation, Saleem asked Wasim to repay Rs 5,000 he had lent him. Wasim made derogatory remarks about Saleem's mother and sister, triggering a heated argument that soon escalated into a physical fight.

Police said Wasim attacked Saleem with a stone, injuring him.

During the ensuing scuffle, Saleem stabbed Wasim with a knife.

Wasim sustained grievous injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where he succumbed. Saleem is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Based on a complaint filed by Wasim's mother, the SG Palya police have registered a murder case.

Police officials said that Saleem will be questioned after he is discharged from the hospital.

# Dog bites in Bengaluru surge 55% year-on-year

## Child injured in stray dog attack sparks fresh concern

**SHARP RISE:** Govt data shows a significant surge in stray and pet dog bite cases under the GBA.

- Total cases (Jan–May 2026): **18,140**
- Increase Vs same period in 2025: **55%** (11,647 to 18,140)
- Stray dog bites: **10,563 cases**
- Pet dog bites: **7,577 cases**
- Highest monthly spike: April 2026: **4,195 incidents**

**AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR**
BENGALURU, DHNS

A dog attack in Sahakaranagar on June 14 that left a four-year-old girl seriously injured has intensified concerns over stray dog safety in the city.

Sangeetha, the daughter of migrant construction workers from Yadgir, was attacked by a pack of six stray dogs in CQAL Layout. She sustained injuries to her legs and hands.

Government data shows a sharp rise in both stray and pet dog bite incidents.

In the first five months of 2026, 18,140 dog bite cases were reported under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), a 55% increase from 11,647 cases during the same period in 2025 (then recorded under the BBMP, now replaced by the GBA).

Of the total cases this year, 10,563 were caused by stray dogs and 7,577 by pet dogs. April alone accounted for 4,195 incidents.

A GBA official, speaking anonymously, attributed the rise partly to increased public awareness and higher reporting due to free and accessible anti-rabies vaccination.

Earlier this year, the then health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao launched the State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination (SAPRE), aiming for zero dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030. The programme includes free vaccination at government facilities, a 'rabies-free cities' initiative in 11 urban centres, and mandatory treatment protocols in private hospitals.

Doctors, however, say cases are also genuinely rising.

"We are seeing a noticeable increase in dog bite injuries compared to previous years, especially in urban and suburban areas," said Dr Swati Rajagopal, Senior Consultant, Infectious Disease. She added that children and elderly people are increasingly affected, and that bites are becoming more severe.

### Dog shelters

Officials have also pointed to ongoing measures, including a dog shelter in Medi Agrahara under the Bengaluru North City Corporation.

"The facility is being tendered to NGOs for management, and designated feeding zones have been set up," Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar told *DH*.

Authorities say primary health centres and hospitals are adequately stocked with anti-rabies vaccines.

# Woman strangled by live-in partner she met on Insta

## Suspect fled after leaving body at home for two days

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 20-year-old woman was allegedly strangled to death by her live-in partner following a dispute at their rented house in Malleswaram, north Bengaluru, police said on Wednesday.

Anusha ND

Sharath S

The victim, identified as Anusha ND, was killed by her 27-year-old partner, Sharath S, on Saturday night.

According to police, the couple got into an argument over a trivial issue. Sharath said he suspected Anusha was having an affair. The quarrel escalated, and he strangled her to death.

Police said Sharath left the body inside the house and fled the scene. The body remained undiscovered for nearly two days.

On Monday, Sharath informed a lawyer about the incident. The lawyer then alerted the Seshadripuram police, who visited the house, recovered the body, and took the suspect into custody.

Investigators said Sharath and Anusha met through Instagram and entered into a relationship. The couple had been living together in a rented house in Malleswaram for the past six months. Sharath worked as a water tanker driver, while Anusha was unemployed. Both were natives of Sakleshpur in Hassan district.

Anusha's body was handed over to her family after the post-mortem examination. Sharath has been remanded to judicial custody, police added.

## PUC student dies in road accident

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Two people, including a student, were killed in separate road accidents in Kasturinagar and on CMH Road on Tuesday.

In the first incident, Lawrence (16), a second-year PU student, died after the motorcycle he was riding crashed into the barrier of the Outer Ring Road flyover at Kasturinagar. Lawrence, a resident of KR Puram, was studying at a private college.

Lawrence took his brother's motorcycle while his family was asleep on Tuesday morning. He was riding at high speed when he lost control and hit the flyover parapet. He sustained grievous injuries and died on the way to the hospital.

A case has been registered at the Mahadevapura Traffic Police Station.

In another incident near a metro pillar on CMH Road, 62-year-old pedestrian Venkatesh was killed after being hit by a motorcycle while crossing the road. The speeding motorcycle struck Venkatesh, causing severe head injuries. He was admitted to Nimhans, but succumbed to his injuries.

The rider has been arrested and the motorcycle seized. Traffic police said speeding appears to be the cause of the accident. A case has been registered at the JB Nagar Traffic Police Station.

## Metro feeder bus

**BENGALURU, DHNS: BMTC will introduce the following non-AC metro feeder bus route on June 22.**

**MF-22G: Dommasandra Bus Station to Bommasandra Bus Station via Muttanallur Cross, Narayanaghatta, Ramasagara and Chandapura. The first bus from Dommasandra will be at 7.10 am and the last 5 pm. From Bommasandra, the first bus will depart at 8.05 am and the last at 6 pm.**

## Small bakeries and condiment shops shut today

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Owners of small bakeries, tea and coffee stalls, and condiment shops will observe a strike on Thursday to protest alleged harassment by government officials and rowdies in the city.

According to organisers, Bengaluru has more than 58,000 bakeries, condiment shops, small retailers and street vendors. They allege that officials are harassing them under the pretext of enforcing the COTPA Act, the plastic ban and other regulations, while rowdies are demanding protection money.

The strike has been called to demand an end to such practices, said Ravi Shetty Byndoor, president of the Karnataka Labour Council.

"Shop owners are being asked to obtain separate licences for selling cigarettes, food items, and tea and coffee. We want a single licence that covers all these activities," he said.

The association also alleged that extortion demands, pressure from municipal health department officials, and seizure of tobacco products are causing losses to small traders operating on thin profit margins.

The association warned that if its demands are not met, it will launch further protests.

## FIR lodged after bizman claims gang abducted him, robbed Rs 1.09 cr

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 41-year-old man has alleged that a gang kidnapped him and his driver at knifepoint and robbed them of Rs 1.09 crore.

RI Shivashankar, who runs D360 Secure Services, a security agency in Yeshwantpur, told police that he, along with associates from Andhra Pradesh—identified as Mohammed Parvez, Jipson and Aleem—was planning to start a company called ANRC (American Nuclear Research Centre).

On June 13, he received Rs 35 lakh in cash from his associates, which he kept at his residence. Two days later, he received Rs 74 lakh at a hotel in Yelahanka and was returning home in his car with his driver, Chetan.

Around 11 pm, when they were near Kuduregere Colony in Dasanapura, they were waylaid by two men on a KTM Duke motorcycle and five others in a Maruti Suzuki Ertiga. Armed with beer bottles and knives, the gang smashed the car windows, threatened them, and forced them out of the vehicle.

They were then abducted and taken to a forest area near Nelamangala.

The accused forced Shivashankar to call his wife and instruct her to hand over the Rs 35 lakh kept at home. Gang members later collected the cash. He also said that the gang took away the Rs 74 lakh that was in the car.

Based on the complaint, Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case.


**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**
**STC BSF BANGALORE**
**No. BIT/AUCTION/STC-BLR/2026/8617 Dated 09th June 2026**

**AUCTION NOTICE**

A public auction of condemned / unserviceable technical stores of BSF Institute of Technology (BIT) held with STC BSF Bangalore will be held on **24 June 2026 at 1100 hrs at** STC BSF Bangalore

**2.** All interested bidders are requested to attend the auction the on scheduled date and time.

**3.** All the bidders will have to deposit **Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand only)** as Earnest money before commencement of the auction. The amount of earnest money will be returned/ adjusted after finalization of auction.

**4.** The bidder have to be registered as per E- WASTE Rules with ministry of Environment & forest Central/ DPCC and state pollution Control Board under Karnataka Govt. Documents of registration and validity of authorization shall be produced with the bid agencies. The participation in the bid will not be allowed without requisite registration and authorization.

**5.** The firm may enclose sufficient documents regarding execution of government work order specifically disposal of E- waste.

**6.** All bidders must enclose GSTIN registration/ service tax registration certification with the tender documents.

**7.** The successful bidder will have to deposit the sale value of the auctioned stores on the spot and stores to be lift and within 12 hours after completion of auction under their own arrangements. No transport will be provided by this institution.

**8.** In case successful bidders fail to deposit the cost of the stores on spot, his earnest money will be forfeited.

**9.** The decision of the Inspector general, STC BSF Bangalore shall be final in all the matters.

**10.** The Inspector General STC BSF Bangalore reserves the right to accept or reject the auction without assigning any reason.

**Sd/- (JAYA C) Deputy Comdt.**
**For Inspetor General**
**STC BSF Bangalore**

**CBC 19110/11/0020/2627**



**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 05/2027/SBC Dated : 16-06-2026**
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time: 10:30 Hrs.**

| Sl. | Tender No. | Description in Brief | Qty. | Tender Due on |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L8265915 | Supply of 160 sq.mm. Annealed Copper Stranded Jumper Wires. | 9120 Mtr | 09.07.2026 |

**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**

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**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82(2) (ii) Cr. P.C./84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita**

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sh. Srinivasa S. S/o** Subbaiah **R/o** 21/1, 2nd Floor, Anila Residency, 9th Cross Acharya College, main Road, Bhuvanesheari Nagar, RT Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560032 have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR/CC No. 3874/2022 U/s 25 Passa Act**., has been registered at **P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Sh. Srinivasa S.** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Sh. Srinivasa S.** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Sh. Srinivasa S.** of under **FIR/CC No. 3874/2022 U/s 25 Passa Act**., has been registered at **P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **31.08.2026**.

**By Order**
**Sh. Sanyam Jain**
**JMFC-04 (North West), Room No. 112**
**Rohini Court, Delhi**

**DP/6966/NW/2026**
**(Court Notice)**



**CORRIGENDUM NO. 04 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2026/APR/02 DATED: 20-04-2026**

Corrigendum- 04 for **Tender No. CE-CON-DK-EPC-2026-02** has been published. For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

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**S. E. RAILWAY E– TENDER**

**Tender Notice No. PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/24 Dated: 16/06/2026**
**TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM**

The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be Closed at 14.00 hrs.

| SL. No. | Tender No. | Closing Date | Brief Description | Qty. | EMD (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 65245061C | 07/07/26 | Rotary screw electrical driven Air Compressor 500 CFM. | 04 No. | 226800/- |
| 2 | 65255020 | 14/07/26 | Airless Centrifugal Shot Blasting and Peening Plant for coil Springs (Turnkey basis). (Pre-bid meeting on 23/06/26 at 16:00 hrs. in PCMM Meeting Room/SER/GRC/Kol-43). | 02 Nos. | 137360/- |
| 3 | 77263033A | 02/07/26 | Epoxy Cum Polyurethane Painting system (Two Pack) for the Exterior Painting. | 40500 Ltrs. | 132860/- |
| 4 | 77263047 | 07/07/26 | Paint, Black grey RAL-7021, PU Based. | 39,900 Ltrs. | 115550/- |
| 5 | IG265688 | 09/07/26 | Distribution Transformer of Rating 500 KVA, 11KV/415V-240V, 3-phase, 50Hz, Outdoor Type, Plinth Mounted etc. | 08 Nos. | 160480/- |
| 6 | 46263119 | 08/07/26 | Solid Core Porcelain Bracket Insulator (1050 mm CD) for 25 Kv A.C 50 Hz single phase Overhead Traction Lines. | 2434 Nos. | 191740/- |
| 7 | 65245070B | 09/07/26 | TRAVERSER 80T PIT TYPE etc. | 01 No. | 312000/- |
| 8 | 30261353 | 31/07/26 | Air Spring Bellow assly. Complete etc. | 61 Nos. | 125790/- |
| 9 | 30263494 | 20/07/26 | Air Spring Complete with Emergency etc. | 48 Nos. | 167500/- |
| 10 | 38263172 | 15/07/26 | Door assembly (Double Link) for BOBRN Wagon. | 160 Nos. | 156710/- |
| 11 | 38263864 | 29/07/26 | Brake Head for KNORR BREMSE Design BMBS. | 6700 Nos. | 221370/- |
| 12 | 38261611 | 31/07/26 | Kit for distributor valve (Wagon) consisting of 42 items. | 9650 Set. | 571240/- |
| 13 | 38263004 | 10/08/26 | Snubber Spring for CASNUB 22 HS Bogie. | 7730 Nos. | 155980/- |
| 14 | 38263867 | 24/08/26 | POH Kit for EL 60 (APM) for BOXNHL Wagon for KNORR BREMSE Design BMBS. | 1785 Set. | 117960/- |
| 15 | 93263007 | 06/07/26 | Wood based impregnated compressed Laminated Sheet etc. | 2369 Nos. | 150750/- |
| 16 | 77260003 | 28/07/26 | Set of Epoxy Paint, Thinner and Putty etc. | 1015 Set. | 281820/- |
| 17 | 45263185 | 14/07/26 | Supply of Low Maintenance Lead Acid Battery for Diesel Electric Loco Engine Starting Application, 8V, 500AH. | 407 Nos. | 561960/- |
| 18 | 46263119 | 08/07/26 | Solid Core Porcelain Bracket Insulator (1050 mm CD) for 25 Kv A.C 50 Hz single phase Overhead Traction Lines etc. | 2434 Nos. | 191740/- |
| 19 | 46263121 | 21/07/26 | Solid Core Porcelain 9 Tonne Insulator (R.I No. 6020-1) (1050 mm CD) complete set for 25 KV A.C etc. | 2256 Nos. | 148650/- |
| 20 | 76263029 | 21/07/26 | Manual Metal Arc Welding Electrodes. Dia.: 4mm, Class: M4. | 28390 kg. | 165490/- |
| 21 | 33261486 | 15/07/26 | Non-Asbestos Based Set of Brake Pad etc. | 70020 Set. | 2000000/- |
| 22 | 77260001 | 30/07/26 | Paint Gentian Blue (RAL-5010) PU based. | 63660 ltrs. | 178040/- |
| 23 | 76261795 | 28/07/26 | MMAW Electrode, Size: 3.15 mm dia. X 350 mm, Class MS. | 2,63,390 Mtrs. | 115000/- |

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full Details/Description/Specification of the tenders and submit their Bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR- 339)**



**कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय**
**ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग**

**ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

ई–निविदा सं0 :– 04/R1/2024-25/RWD/EE/HAZARIBAG दिनांक :– 17.06.2026

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है ।

1. कार्य की विवरणी :–

| क्र0 सं0 | आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या | प्रखण्ड | कार्य का नाम | प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपया में) अंक में | अक्षर में | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | RWD/HAZ/ STPKG/02/ 2024-25 | बरही | डी0ए0भी0 स्कूल से कारीमाटी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं0–2.850 कि0मी0) | 12,74,69,050/- | बारह करोड़ चौहत्तर लाख उनहत्तर हजार पचास रुपये मात्र | 15 (पन्द्रह) माह | द्वितीय |
| | | बरही | खोडाहर से केदारुत तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं0–5.100 कि0मी0) | | | | |
| | | बरही | जी0टी0 रोड से पुरहारा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं0–2.100 कि0मी0) | | | | |
| | | बरही | डी0ए0भी0 स्कूल से पडीरमा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं0–2.100 कि0मी0) | | | | |
| | | बरही | तिलैया से कोल्हुआकला तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं0–6.150 कि0मी0) | | | | |
| | | पदमा | केवला मोड से बरदेवा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं0–2.750 कि0मी0) | | | | |

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :–23.06.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :–01.07.2026 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक ।
4. निविदा खोलने की, तिथि, एवं समय–02.07.2026 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग ।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0–06546–265286 ।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है । **कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग**

PR 382582 Rural Work Department (26-27)_D



**GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND**
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**
**NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, CHAIBASA – 833201**

**Corrigendum to National Bidding / e-Procurement Notice**

**(Tender Reference no: - NH/CHAIBASA/STMC/02/2025-26 Dated 23.07.2025)**
**Corrigendum-I**

Subject:- Application in the prescribed format eligible contractors for Request for proposal for Performance based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC) mode is invited for following project in two bid systems, (Technical & Financial).

Reference is invited to the above mention work with **Tender Reference no: - NH/CHAIBASA /PBMC/01/2026-27 dated 27.05.2026** Published on different Newspapers vide NIT PR No. PR381485 (West Singhbhum)26-27*D. In this regard, it is to inform that bid date and bid opening date modified as below:-

| SL No. | Name of works | State | Length (In km) | Estimated cost including LC and excluding GST | Cost of RFP Document (In Rs.) | Bid Security (In Lakh) | Contract Duration (Month) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | PBMC work of NH-20(Old NH-75E) from KM 176.220 to KM 202.9 (Total Length = 26.68) in the state of Jharkhand for the year 2026-27. | Jharkhand | 26.68 | 1820.97848 | 10,000/- (RFP) & 1,800 (GST) | 18.21 | 60 |

Note – GST amount will be paid as per Government Norms applicable from time to time Important Dates.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Notice Inviting RFP | : | 27.05.2026 |
| 2 | Last Date of Receiving Quarries | : | 25.06.2026 |
| 3 | Pre-Bid Meeting at venue (as mentioned in RFP) | : | 01.07.2026 at 12:30 Hrs |
| 4 | Authority Response to Queries Latest by | : | 03.07.2026 |
| 5 | Period of State of Bid Document | : | From 22.06.2026 12:00 Hrs to 06.07.2026 upto 17:00 HRs Through official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in] |
| 6 | Bid Due Date | : | Date 06.07.2026 Up to 17:00 HRS Through official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in] |
| 7 | Last date of Physical submission of bid security, POA and other document in original | : | 07.07.2026 up to 15:00 HRS |
| 8 | Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid (RFP) | : | Date 07.07.2026 17:00 HRS Through official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in] |
| 9 | Time and Date of Opening Financial Bid | : | To be notify. Through official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in] |
| 10 | Please of Opening of Bids | : | Office of the Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi Through official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in] |
| 11 | Bid Validity | : | 120 Days From the Bid Due Date. |
| 12 | Officer Inviting Bids | : | Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Chaibasa |

**PR 382583 West Singhbhum(26-27)#D**

**Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Chaibasa.**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My Clients Sri. Dayanand R P S/o Late R M Patil, Sri Santosh K S S/o Late Y.R Sawkar, Sri. Anand Y S S/o Late Y.R Sawkar, Smt. C. Patil W/o Late Vijay Patil, Smt. Kamala B P W/o Late B R Patil, Sri. Rajeev B P S/o of Late B R Patil, Smt. Reema B P D/o Late B R Patil, Smt. Reshma P D/o Late B R Patil, Sri. Suhas S M and Sri. Ajay S M Sons of Late Kashava S. M., Wife of Subhaschandra M, at No 16. Old No 399, 13th Cross, Palace Upper Orchards, Sadashivnagar, Bangalore-580080, who are the joint owners of schedule property, intends to sell the same.

Any objections from public, regarding sale of property may be notified to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication. If no objections are received within said days, my clients would go ahead and alienate schedule property to intending purchasers.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.16 (old No.399) (PID No 99- 12-160) New PID No 4726668477, New Ward Aramane Nagar, situated at 13th Cross, Palace Orchards, Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru 560080, with ground and 1st floor building, measuring East to West 75 feet and North to South 45 feet and totally measuring 3375 sq feet and bounded on:- **East by :** Road, **West by :** Property No.407, **North by :** Property No.400, **South by :** Property No.398

**HARISH H V,** Advocate,
33/8, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, Sri Ramamandira Road, (Near Vydehi Hospital), Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-560027.
Ph. No. 9945939999
Email : harishhvreddy@gmail.com



**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
**Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2026-27/13 Dt: 10.06.2026**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

| Item of work | Approx.Value |
|---|---|
| Implementation of Cyber security as per latest guidelines in existing SCADA system of Bengaluru Division | Rs. 10,65,42,442.00/- |

**Period of completion : 06 Months**

**Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2026-27/14 Dt: 12.06.2026**

| Item of work | Approx.Value |
|---|---|
| Implementation of cyber security as per latest guidelines in existing SCADA system of Bengaluru Division- up gradation of M/s Vbro make RTUs | Rs. 45,00,000/- |

**Period of completion : 06 Months**

Last date for Submission of bids :
**Upto 15.00 hrs on 02.07.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

**Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru**
PUB/211/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways



**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
**Tender Notice No.**
**CN/06/2026 Dated: 15.06.2026**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

| Tender No. | Item of Work |
|---|---|
| 56265048 | 48 Fibre Armoured Optical Fibre Cable to RDSO Spec No. RDSO/SPN/TC/110/2020 Rev. 0.0. Outer jacket of OFC shall be of 4 colours (Blue, Orange, Green and Grey) **Qty:** 2000 kms |

Last date for Submission of bids :
**on 06.07.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Assistant Materials Manager, Construction, Bangalore Cantt.**
PUB/217/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways



**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
**Tender notice No.**
**CAO/CN/BNC/187/2026 dated 12.06.2026**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

| Item of Work | Approx.Value |
|---|---|
| Tumukur- Rayadurga New BG line project: Proposed construction of staff quarters between Tumukur- Rayadurga stations, Construction of SSE/P.way office, SSE/ Works office, SSE/ S & T office, SSE/ Electrical office, officer's Rest House and Supervisor Rest House and Area manager office at Pavagada station including approach roads and other associated work. (Composite Work). | Rs. 98,15,42,876.49/- |

Last date for Submission of bids :
**Upto 15.00 hrs on 15.07.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works, Bengaluru Cantonment**
PUB/218/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

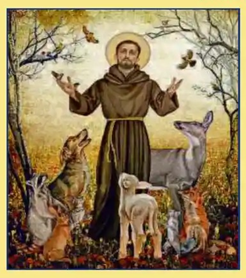
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways



**Thanksgiving**

***Thanksgiving***



Gratitude and Thanksgiving for the safe return of our lost pet- Sushi

**- Antony Family**

# Govt unveils economic hub plan

BENGALURU, DHNS

A high-level steering committee chaired by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh reviewed the roadmap for transforming the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR) into a global economic growth hub, with officials discussing proposals that include new growth centres, a 287-km circular rail network, and expansion of Namma Metro.

The meeting examined a draft plan prepared by the Institute for Sustainability, Employment and Growth (ISEG) Foundation, under an agreement signed with the Karnataka government in May.

The plan envisions the BMR emerging as a leading hub for innovation, technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced manufacturing, and sustainable urban development by

Shalini Rajneesh

2037. According to the presentation before the committee, the BMR—spanning about 8,000 sqkm—has a population of around 15 million and contributes over 43% of Karnataka's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), supporting approximately 3.8 million jobs.

The roadmap proposes the development of new growth centres both within and beyond Bengaluru's existing urban limits. It also outlines a 287-km circular rail network, four Rapid Regional Transit System (RRTS) corridors, an additional 400–500 km of metro lines, and expansion of suburban rail services.

### Review meetings

A second steering committee meeting is scheduled for July 28, followed by a third review in August. The final presentation is expected to be submitted to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara in the first week of September.

The government estimates that the initiative could help the BMR achieve an economy valued between USD 390 billion and USD 420 billion by 2037, while creating an additional 2.5 to 3 million jobs.

# Citizens' group rolls out three-day awareness campaign on SIR

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A coalition of civil society organisations in Bengaluru launched a three-day awareness campaign on Wednesday to educate voters about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The campaign, organised under the banner 'My Vote, My Right', aims to inform citizens about the steps required to ensure their names remain on the voter rolls.

"We have been opposing the SIR because it has led to large-scale exclusions in the 12 states where it has already been carried out. We want to prevent the same from happening in Karnataka and are, therefore, preparing voters for the process. Unfortunately, neither the Election Commission nor the Union or state governments have undertaken adequate public awareness efforts so far. Of the over 30 people I spoke to today, only one was aware of the SIR," said Vinay Sreenivasa, a member of the organisation.

Around 25 volunteers launched the campaign in Valluvarpuram near Mantri Mall before moving to Peenya after covering parts of Malleswaram.

"We are trying to reach as many working-class voters as possible because they are particularly vulnerable to losing their voting rights. Women voters, across age groups, castes and religions, are also among those most frequently deleted from electoral rolls," Sreenivasa said.

The awareness drive will continue on June 18 and 19 in localities including Shivajinagar, Chamarajpet, KR Market, Jayanagar, Tilaknagar and Mysuru Road.

The group is also conducting a signature campaign seeking public support for a memorandum, demanding that the Chief Electoral Officer convene a public meeting on the SIR in the presence of the state government and disclose the source code of the software used in the revision process.

The memorandum also calls for more proactive intervention by the chief minister.

DH
DECCAN HERALD

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We are a leading newspaper and magazine publishing group in Karnataka. We invite applications for the following position in our organisation.

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| | | |
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**INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS:** Several recently asphalted roads lack functional rainwater outlets & shoulder drains

# Recurring potholes point to missing drainage focus in roadworks

**NAVEEN MENEZES**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Poor drainage, incomplete works and inadequate provisions for rainwater disposal are emerging as major reasons behind recurring potholes, according to a ground inspection of several stretches across the city.

A review of roads riddled with potholes found that civic agencies have largely prioritised asphalting of carriageways while paying little attention to shoulder drains and drainage infrastructure.

About four months ago, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) asphalted the service road of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Kasturinagar, but drain works were not taken up. Today, there is no drain on one side, while the existing drain on the other is broken. As a result, the stretch has developed large potholes, forcing BMTC buses to stop using the service road.

In several other cases, roads that are being resurfaced under "comprehensive development" continue to lack functional drainage systems.

Stretches such as Nimhans Road, Cantonment Road, Hesaraghatta Road, Haralur Road and Laggere Road have been tarred, but no provision has been made for rainwater outlets at regular intervals.

MG Road, resurfaced just a few months ago, has visible rainwater outlets that are not functioning properly. A similar situation is seen on Swami Vivekananda Road, where cobblestones are being replaced, but new rainwater outlets are not being added in stretches where they do not exist.

**Pedestrians navigate a maze of potholes on Kalasipalyam Main Road, outside the bus stand – just a few kilometres from the Greater Bengaluru Authority headquarters.** DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

**The Outer Ring Road in Kasturinagar is riddled with crater-sized potholes, a consequence of inadequate drainage infrastructure.** DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

Urban planners say engineering agencies are not addressing the root cause of the problem. They say tech parks and airports remain pothole-free because roads and drainage systems there are well designed and maintained.

"Ideally, a rainwater outlet is needed every 30 feet, but most roads do not have this provision. Even where they exist, they are often not functional," said urban planner Prof George K Kuruvilla.

He added, "Water has tremendous force and can erode asphalt. Shoulder drains are essential for pothole-free roads. Yet, I have not seen the corporation fix this issue in the last 20 years despite repeated asphalting works."

A retired engineer also noted that shoulder drains are often ignored by contractors.

> An ideal road has a rainwater outlet every 30 feet, yet most roads lack this provision, and even where it exists, it often fails to function. Water carries tremendous force and can erode asphalt, making shoulder drains essential for pothole-free roads. Despite repeated asphalting over the past 20 years, this issue has remained unaddressed by the corporation..
>
> **PROF GEORGE K KURUVILLA**
> Urban planner

"While civil works for drains are included in estimates, they are sometimes not executed on the ground. This leads to pothole formation," he said.

On Tuesday, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda flagged the issue of potholes, saying the city has fallen into a cycle of building roads that are prone to damage and then repeatedly spending money on repairs.

## KBG to review garbage crisis amid rising complaints

**Krishna Byre Gowda**

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has convened a high-level meeting on Thursday to review issues in the city's solid waste management system following complaints from residents, elected representatives and contractors, as well as observations by the Lokayukta.

The meeting, scheduled to be held at the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) office, will be attended by senior officials from the GBA, the city's five municipal corporations, and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML).

The review assumes significance in the wake of the Lokayukta recently flagging deficiencies in Bengaluru's waste management operations and recommending corrective measures.

## BNP seeks civic polls, accountability in open letter to CM

The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) on Wednesday released an open letter to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, urging the state government to address what it described as Bengaluru's governance crisis and recurring monsoon-related failures.

The party called for the immediate conduct of the long-pending municipal elections, pointing out that Bengaluru has been without elected local representatives since September 2020.

**Srikanth Narasimhan**

Referring to the recent death of a woman in a road accident caused by a waterlogged pothole near Whitefield, BNP founder Srikanth Narasimhan said fragmented ministerial responsibilities had led to "confusion and governance paralysis" at a time when the city required clear lines of accountability.

The party also urged the government to strengthen civic institutions and establish a unified leadership structure to address recurring challenges such as flooding and infrastructure failures during the monsoon season.

## Pipe work blocks MG Road-Fraser Town route for a month; commuters fume

**ASHWIN BM**
BENGALURU, DHNS

A month-long closure of the main stretch connecting MG Road to Fraser Town has turned daily commuting around Commercial Street into a nightmare, with slow-moving stormwater drain and pipe repairs forcing vehicles into narrow side lanes and causing long jams during peak hours.

With the main road blocked, traffic has spilled onto Veerapillai Street, Central Street, Dispensary Road, Ibrahim Sahib Street and Dickenson Road.

Auto drivers say a trip that used to take five minutes now takes 20 to 30 minutes as the side lanes are choked.

Officials closed the road a month ago to complete pipe connections, but work has been moving at a snail's pace since.

"It has been one month since they dug up the road. Now, the BWSSB says they still need one more month to finish the pipe-laying job. I think not even half the work is done. The workers work for one day and take leave for two days. They have dug up the whole road, put the mud in front of our shop, and placed a big pipe that blocks everything," said a medical shop owner on the 500-metre stretch. Locals also say workers broke the drainage channel.

When it rains, water has no place to drain out, leaving the area muddy and waterlogged. Residents are questioning why authorities began major excavation work during the rainy season.

**Commuters are inconvenienced due to the works at Commercial Street.** DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

## Dug-up road near Kalasipalyam leaves traders counting losses

**SNEHA RAMESH**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Road repair work by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has torn up Petnoolpet Road near the Kalasipalyam police station, leaving shopkeepers struggling with lost business and no word on when the work will finish.

Workers dug up part of the road two weeks ago, before eventually excavating the entire stretch, catching shopkeepers off guard.

"There were rubbles on the road and, for some time, no vehicles could enter. Our business took a bad hit then," said shopkeeper Mujib M.

Many shops on the lane deal in autorickshaw spare parts, and auto drivers are finding it difficult to reach them. "These are small lanes and if it is dug up so badly, it gets difficult for our customers to reach us. Since there are many shops in the area, if the roads are not proper and if the customers find it difficult to reach us, they tend to go to other shops unless they are our regular customers," said another shopkeeper, Alim.

**Broken and neglected, Petnoolpet Road has brought business activity to a standstill.** DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Shopkeepers want the work completed at the earliest so business can return to normal, but officials have not given a deadline. Senior officials of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation said that the BWSSB had taken up the repair work and the road would be restored once it was completed.

# MLC polls: Curbs around Vidhana Soudha, public gatherings banned within 1-km radius

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In view of the MLC elections on Thursday, police have imposed prohibitory orders within a one-kilometre radius of the Vidhana Soudha to maintain law and order and ensure the smooth conduct of the polls.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh issued the order on Wednesday under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

As per the order, no procession, rally, demonstration, protest, victory celebration, public meeting, or gathering will be allowed in the restricted zone.

Assembly of more than four people has also been prohibited, except where specifically exempted by competent authorities.

Entry into the Vidhana Soudha premises will be strictly regulated and allowed only with valid passes.

Unauthorised entry has been barred.

Access will be limited to MLAs, MLCs, Members of Parliament, and duly authorised officials and staff.

Polling and counting agents will be permitted only with valid authorisation.

Authorities have urged the public to comply with restrictions and cooperate with police and election officials to ensure peaceful conduct of the election.

## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**Lecture:** 'How media understands the common people'; Kannada Yuvajana Sangha, H Siddiah Road, Hombegowda Nagar; 6.30 pm.

**Birth Centenary of Prof KT Pandurangi and Gururajacharya Pandurangi:** Panel discussion featuring Narayanacharya Pujar, AP Pratosh, Gururajacharya Kalkur, Srikantha Bairi, BS Hayavadana, Malagi Ramacharya, Sripatyacharya Pandurangi, AR Panchamukhi, Guruprasadacharya, Vishwaprasannatirtha Swami, and Vidyashreesha Tirtha Swami; Poornaprajna Research Institute, Kathriguppe Main Road; 9.30 am.

**Lecture:** 'Women's contribution to Karnataka's culture', in memory of Vishalakshamma and BS Shamanna; Speaker Lalitamma Chandrashekhar; MVC Hall, BM Sri Pratishthana, NR Colony; 5 pm.

**CULTURAL**

**Special Art Exhibition:** Broken Foot Journal and Other Narratives (marking Reba Hore's birth centenary); Seagull, Kolkata; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; 11 am.

**Art Exhibition by Atmananda:** Inaugurated by Suchendra Prasad; Guests PS Kumar and R Chandrashekhar; Chaired by Saroja; Varna Art Gallery, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 11 am.

**'Kajanada Koogu' Solo Theatre Festival:** Performances of A Doll House and Darpana Sundari; Music and direction by Belur Raghunandan; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 4 pm.

**Play:** Olacharandi Purana, script by Gaurish Joshi; Directed by Archana Shyam and presented by Antaranga; Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Road, Basavanagudi; 7.15 pm.

**Play:** Bag Dancing; Written by Mike Kenny, directed by Ujwala Rao and performed by Bhootayi; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

**RELIGIOUS**

**48th Silver Jubilee of Kote Maramma Temple:** Kote Sri Maramma Temple Annadana Committee; Fort 'E' Street, Kalasipalya; 7 am.

## ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**

Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 31.5°C |
| Minimum | 22.2°C |
| Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) | NIL |
| Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) | 54% |
| Sunset (Jun 18) | 6:47 pm |
| Sunrise (Jun 19) | 5:54 am |
| Moonrise | 8:01 am |
| Moonset | 9:17 pm |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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**incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.**
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Date: 17.06.2026
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**Asst. Director In charge**

## 4-year-old dies of suspected heart attack in Hiriyur

**CHITRADURGA, DHNS:** A four-year-old boy died of a suspected heart attack around Tuesday midnight at Venukallugudda village in Hiriyur taluk, Chitradurga district.

Parents of Vaishnav rushed him to the hospital when he complained of severe chest pain, but he died en route. Vaishnav was the son of K Abhinandan, who is president of Hiriyur taluk unit of the BJP. When he first started complaining of chest pain, the parents, suspecting that it was a case of gastric trouble, gave him some medicines for the same. When Vaishnav complained of unceasing pain, his parents decided to take him to a private hospital. "We cannot confirm whether the boy died of a heart attack unless we get the postmortem results. Given that the body turned blue, it is possible he died of some other illness," said a doctor.

## CSIR-NAL inks pact with Gati Shakti varsity

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru-based CSIR–National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) to enhance collaboration in aviation education, research and innovation.

The two institutions will jointly develop academic curricula, establish advanced laboratories and testing facilities, facilitate faculty and student exchange programmes, and support capacity-building initiatives in the aviation sector. They will also undertake collaborative research and development projects.

Speaking at the MoU exchange ceremony, CSIR-NAL Director Abhay Pashilkar said, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in CSIR-NAL's journey. By bringing together innovation, education and industry expertise, the collaboration will strengthen research and development efforts and contribute to the future growth of India's aviation sector." GSV, established under the Central Universities (Amendment) Act, 2022, is India's first university dedicated to transportation and logistics. The institution functions under the Ministry of Railways.

# Dept gives nod for English-medium section at govt high schools

### Many students have already enrolled in private high schools, say headmasters

BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 30,000 students at government schools who completed class seven in English-medium sections this year were staring at an uncertain future owing to the fact that their schools either had no high schools or did not offer English-medium classes from class eight. However, the Department of School Education and Literacy has come to their rescue by fast-tracking approval to start English-medium sections from class eight at these schools. However, the new sections will be started only in those schools that are not within a two-kilometre radius of another government high school.

These are the students who were the first to enrol in English-medium sections in 2018-19. After the headmasters of the government schools presented the students' dilemma to the department, it was decided that English-medium sections would be started at those schools from the current academic year.

Commissioner of the Department of School Education Vikas Kishor Suralkar told *DH*, "We are granting permission to start English-medium sections for class eight at those schools that were opened in 2018-19 so students who studied there till class seven can continue their education at the same school. But we have granted permission only to those schools within the two-kilometre radius of which, there is no other English-medium government high school."

Suralkar added that guest teachers would be deputed to the English-medium sections. The department is also collecting feedback on the availability of classrooms at these schools, besides taking stock of the infrastructure at these institutions.

However, the delay on the department's part in taking the decision prompted many parents to enrol their kids in private English-medium high schools. "Of the 16 students in English-medium sections who passed out of class seven, only three decided to enrol in our Kannada-medium high school, while the rest joined private schools," said the headmaster of a government high school in Sedam taluk, Kalaburagi.

The headmaster of a government school in Hoovina Hadagali (Vijayanagara district) said that, owing to the lack of clarity on the issue, they had been compelled to allow students to transfer out. "Now, we can't ask the parents to withdraw their kids from the private schools since the schools are unlikely to refund the fees," the headmaster said.

## Karnatak University suspends professor over allegations of harassment

**DHARWAD, DHNS:** Karnatak University (KU), Dharwad, has suspended a Botany Department professor following allegations of harassment made by research scholars.

The suspension order was issued on Wednesday by the university registrar based on complaints submitted by students and will remain in force pending completion of an inquiry. Confirming the development, Vice-Chancellor Prof A M Khan said Prof Devaraj Tangudorai had been placed under suspension while the investigation was underway.

According to the complaint, the professor allegedly harassed a female PhD scholar by pressuring her to marry him. A male research scholar also alleged that the professor repeatedly told him that his PhD work would progress only if he persuaded the woman to meet him. Following the complaint, the university constituted an inquiry committee to examine the allegations and submit a report.

The issue triggered protests by students from the Botany and other departments, who staged demonstrations outside the university's administrative building demanding immediate action. Amid mounting pressure from students, the university proceeded with the suspension. KU has directed the professor not to leave Dharwad without permission and to appear before the inquiry committee whenever required.

Sources said, the committee, which met on Saturday, recorded statements from those involved. The professor presented his version before the panel, while the complainant detailed the alleged harassment and reportedly submitted an audio recording purportedly containing conversations with the professor. University sources further claimed that the professor was frequently seen with the female scholar and had allegedly shared photographs with her on social media. As the matter gained attention, her parents reportedly took her back to their native place in Vijayapura district, leading to the discontinuation of her studies.

The professor is also alleged to have repeatedly approached another research scholar from the same district, asking him to convince the woman to return. Unable to cope with the alleged pressure, the student eventually lodged a formal complaint with the registrar. The inquiry is in progress, and further action will be taken based on the committee's findings, Prof Khan said.

Health Minister U T Khader presents the Florencde Nightingale award to a nurse at the awards ceremony in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

# Minister hails role of nurses in patient care

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister for Health and Family Welfare U T Khader on Wednesday lauded the nursing community for playing a vital role in safeguarding public health and providing quality patient care.

Speaking at the 25th Florence Nightingale awards programme 2026, he praised nurses for their selfless service, compassion, dedication and commitment, calling them the backbone of the healthcare system.

On the occasion, nurses who had rendered outstanding service and achieved excellence in the healthcare field were honoured with the awards.

### Service-oriented spirit

The ceremony, which celebrated the dignity and service-oriented spirit of the nursing profession, was attended by dignitaries, healthcare professionals and members of the nursing community.

Twelve nurses received excellence awards, each of which carries a cash prize of Rs 25,000 and a memento.

Among those feted were Seema K from Taluk Government Hospital, Raichur; Bharathi Mendigeri, Taluk Government Hospital, Belagavi; Leelavatji K O, Malathi Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru; Thara Machado, Father Muller Medical College Hospital, Mangaluru; Ganesha C, District Hospital, Ramanagar; and Nanda Prakash, Cheluvamba Hospital, Mysuru.

## Farmers arrested on KIADB premises; protests erupt

**CHIKKABALLAPUR, DHNS:** Farmers, who were in Bengaluru to participate in negotiations on the acquisition of land across 13 villages in Jangammakote hobli in Shidlaghatta taluk, were arrested on the premises of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) office on Wednesday.

Outraged by the incident, the farmers in Shidlaghatta and Chikkaballapur descended on the streets to express their anger at the conduct of the state government.

The protesting farmers raised slogans condemning the KIADB, the state government and the police.

Although the state government had initially been keen on acquiring 2,823 acres across 13 villages, it later decided against acquiring 474 acres of fertile land. However, a group of farmers want the government to drop the project altogether and has been on an indefinite protest for the past 95 days, camping in front of the Chikkaballapur district administration office.

The protesting farmers had planned on taking out a 'Bengaluru Chalo' bike rally on June 5, but were prevented from doing so by the police.

Chikkaballapur Deputy Commissioner G Prabhu had pacified the farmers, assuring them that KIADB authorities would meet with and listen to their demands. "The date for the meeting will be confirmed later," he had told the farmers. Taking him at his word, the farmers decided against going ahead with their rally.

On Wednesday, when leaders of the farmers' outfit arrived at the KIADB office for the meeting, they were arrested. The meeting did, however, take place later in the evening.

Working president of the Raitha Sangha Bhaktharahalli Byregowda alleged that the government had intentionally arrested the farmers.

Dubbing the arrest of the farmers 'unfortunate', farmer leader Gopal Gowda said, "KIADB officials have assured us that our demands will be relayed to the board, and a suitable decision taken."

## FIR must when intimate images are shared sans consent: DGP

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The state police chief has ordered that police must register FIRs when private or intimate photographs and videos are shared without consent, as well as in cases of online blackmail, revenge pornography and sextortion.

Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) M A Saleem issued an order on June 16 after receiving complaints where police either delayed or dismissed allegations related to sextortion, blackmail and revenge porn. In some cases, the complaints were allegedly turned down, stating that victims had consented to recording the images or videos.

"Consent to capture and consent to disseminate are two entirely separate legal concepts. Even if a victim had agreed to be photographed or filmed, sharing that content with a third party without their permission constitutes a cognisable offence," Saleem wrote in the order.

The state police chief reiterated that FIR registration should not be delayed or declined based on the reason that there was consent by the complainant.

He also cited the Supreme Court's 2017 ruling in Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India, which established the Right to Privacy — including bodily privacy and the Right to Control Dissemination of Personal Information — as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

As per the order, violating the rule amounts to voyeurism. A case can be registered under section 77 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Saleem warned of disciplinary action against officials who deny or delay FIR registration in cases of non-consensual dissemination of intimate content, including blackmail videos, sextortion and revenge pornography.

## SIR task: Anganwadi staff seek exemption from BLO duty

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** With the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise gathering pace in Karnataka, Anganwadi workers have sought exemption from Booth Level Officer (BLO) duties, citing excessive workload, harassment by officials, unrealistic targets, inadequate training and the risk of legal complications.

There are around 59,000 BLOs drawn from various departments for the ongoing SIR exercise. The Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers' Association staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday and later submitted a memorandum to Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukkumar.

"Nearly 25,000 Anganwadi workers are now working as BLOs after a six-hour shift at Anganwadi centres. Older recruits with SSLC qualifications are not familiar with the mobile apps used for election work. Poor network, lack of separate mobile phones for BLO work, absence of travel and daily allowances, and evening meetings that force women to return home late at night have become an additional burden," said S Varalakshmi, president of the association.

Members of the Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers' Association staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday, demanding that people above the age of 50 be exempted from booth level officers' duties. DH PHOTO

Anbukkumar assured the association that their concerns would be forwarded to the Election Commission of India, as the state office had limited powers to address the grievances directly.

The association claimed that nearly 5,000 BLOs had received warning notices threatening suspension or imprisonment for failing to complete assigned tasks within stipulated timelines.

It also alleged that workers were being pressured to fabricate voter records. "Married women are being (progeny) mapped under their marital families instead of their parental families in some cases due to pressure from local election officials," rued Varalakshmi.

The association has sought exemption from SIR duties for employees above 50 years of age and those suffering from illnesses, action against officials forcing staff to prepare incorrect records and scheduling of review meetings only during morning hours.

## Need comprehensive, integrated regulatory framework for homestays: HC

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The High Court of Karnataka has stressed the need for a comprehensive and integrated regulatory framework governing homestays in the state.

"In view of the increasing importance of the homestay sector and the recurring disputes brought before this court, it would be appropriate for the Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the departments concerned, to examine the feasibility of formulating a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework governing the establishment, operation and supervision of homestays in the state," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

The court said this allowing the petition filed by the owner of a homestay in Kodagu against an order passed by the deputy commissioner and the chairman of the District Tourism Development Committee. The order terminated the registration of the homestay after an American tourist filed a rape complaint. The tourist alleged that she was drugged, held captive and sexually assaulted by a staffer at the homestay.

**Court allows Kodagu homestay's plea against termination of regn after rape plaint by US tourist**

The court held that the order was passed in breach of the principles of natural justice and issued without adherence to the mandatory procedure prescribed under the Karnataka Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Act, particularly Section 13. It disposed of the petition by directing that the order be considered as a show-cause notice.

Disposing the matter, Justice Govindaraj noted that operation of a homestay involves numerous aspects that traverse several statutory and regulatory domains and which cannot be effectively addressed merely through registration under the Act. The court outlined nine key aspects pertaining to homestays and asked the authorities to undertake a regulatory framework.

"There is a need to prescribe minimum standards relating to sanitation, cleanliness, drinking water, waste disposal, sewage management and environmental sustainability. There is a further need to clearly delineate the responsibilities of the various governmental authorities involved in regulation. At present, aspects relating to tourism, food safety, fire safety, local administration, public health, police verification, taxation and environmental compliance are administered by different departments," the court said, adding that a distinction may also be required between small family-run homestays and larger commercial establishments operating under the nomenclature of homestays.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that **Mr. RONALD THOMAS PENNY @ RON PENNY,** S/o Mr. Thomas James Penny, aged about 88 years, residing at No. 5/3, John Armstrong Road, Richards Town, Bengaluru 560005, had executed an **Irrevocable General Power of Attorney** dated 28.11.2025 in favour of **Mr. SIDARTH RAJ,** S/o Mr. S.K. Rajkumar, residing at No. 17/A, Captain Munshi Layout, Hennur Main Road, Bengaluru-560084, in respect of **property bearing No. 5 (Old No. 3), John Armstrong Road, Richards Bengaluru Town, 560005,** measuring approximately 9,135.5 sq. ft. The said **Power of Attorney** has been revoked and cancelled by a **Deed of Revocation** with immediate effect. Accordingly, **Mr. SIDARTH RAJ** has no authority whatsoever to represent, deal with, negotiate, execute documents, create any third-party rights, or act on behalf of the undersigned in respect of the aforesaid property. The public is hereby cautioned not to deal with or rely upon any representation made by the said Attorney in relation to the said property. Any person doing so shall act at his/her own risk, cost and consequences, and the undersigned shall not be responsible or liable for the same.
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IN BRIEF

## Zameer keeps Cabinet hopes alive

▸ BENGALURU, DHNS: Chamrajpet MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan on Wednesday said he expects his name in the second list of lawmakers, who will be inducted into Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's Cabinet.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Shivakumar's brother D K Suresh, Zameer said: "I'll go with whatever the party high command decides. I expected my name in the first list. I'm now expecting my name in the second list. If I don't make it, I have no problem."

Asked about protests seeking a ministerial berth for him, he said: "My fans are staging protests, which is natural. I'm not publicly protesting or seeking a ministerial position." He said he was friends with Suresh and they keep meeting. "We meet four times a month."

## 232 Grade-2 tahsildars promoted to Grade-1

▸ BENGALURU, DHNS: The government has promoted 232 Grade-2 tahsildars to Grade-1, which Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara hailed as 'an administrative milestone' on Wednesday.

Parameshwara, who is the revenue minister, said these promotions were long due. "For more than 5 years, many deserving officers had awaited career progression despite their eligibility, dedication and service. A total of 232 Grade-2 Tahsildars have been promoted to Grade-1 Tahsildar. By resolving this long-standing issue, the government has reaffirmed its belief that merit, commitment and integrity must always be recognised and rewarded," Parameshwara said in a statement.

"I would like to convey to every officer in our department that your commitment will be recognised, your concerns will be heard, and your aspirations will receive due consideration," he said.

"I would also like to assure the citizens that the Revenue Department will continue to evolve into a citizen-centric institution where services are delivered with greater speed, transparency and accountability," he added.

## Kartavya app: 2.13 lakh staff yet to register

▸ BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh said 2.13 lakh officers and employees were yet to register themselves on the Kartavya mobile app and asked all deputy commissioners to compulsorily enrol them.

In a circular, Shalini said it was now compulsory for government employees to mark their daily attendance on the new Kartavya - Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System (KAAMS). More than three lakh employees have already registered on Kartavya.

## Govt cases: CS bats for Lok Adalat resolution

▸ BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh said on Wednesday that at least 400 out of 1,000 cases involving the state government pending before the Supreme Court can be settled during a Special Lok Adalat scheduled on August 21-23.

She chaired a meeting of all secretaries to discuss the 'Samadhana Samaroh' Special Lok Adalat. She asked departments whose cases are pending before the top court to explore the possibility of resolution through Special Lok Adalat. She said awareness should be created among members of the public, who have filed cases against the government regarding benefits of Lok Adalat, said a release.

# Council elections today: Cong, JD(S) in battle mode for 7th seat

### Independents likely to back ruling party for seat

BENGALURU, DHNS

The JD(S) on Wednesday moved its MLAs to a resort amid fears of cross-voting in favour of the Congress, on the eve of the elections to seven Legislative Council seats.

There are 8 candidates for 7 seats, and each candidate requires 28 votes to win.

Four candidates from Congress - B K Hariprasad, Tippannappa Kamaknoor, P V Mohan and Shivanna Malavalli - and two from BJP - Raghu Kautilya and Lingaraj Patil - are assured of victory.

For the seventh seat, a tight contest is likely between Vinay Karthik of Congress and Govindaraju of JD(S).

The Congress, which needs five more votes to ensure Karthik's victory, is banking on support from independents (Latha Malikarjun and K H Puttaswamy Gowda), Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha MLA (Darshan Puttanaiah) and two MLAs expelled by BJP and seen as close to Congress - S T Somashekhar and Shivaram Hebbar.

On Wednesday, Congress MLAs went into a huddle at a resort near Bengaluru.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar takes part in a mock voting session ahead of the Legislative Council elections at Bidadi in Bengaluru South district on Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

A mock voting exercise was conducted to familiarise MLAs with the voting process. The five MLAs mentioned above also attended.

If Congress get these five votes while ensuring none of its members abstain or cross-vote, it will win the fifth seat too.

The JD(S) has 18 MLAs and is expected to get seven surplus votes from alliance partner BJP. It is also seeking support of Basanagouda Patil Yatnal (expelled from BJP).

The regional outfit will still need two more votes.

The BJP held its legislature party meeting on Wednesday evening. A delegation of JD(S) leaders met BJP leaders to formally seek support for the seventh seat.

#### Cross voting fears

At the Congress legislature party meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar shared the party's strategy to win all five seats, while revealing that some party MLAs had received "inducement" calls from JD(S).

The chief minister warned MLAs against cross-voting. It's unclear whether senior MLA G T Devegowda of the JD(S), seen as close to Congress, will cast his vote. Gowda is reportedly ill and taking rest.

**H D KUMARASWAMY**
Union Minister

"The government is in their hands – they (Congress) have manpower, money power and muscle power. Can we fight them? We have put up a candidate to ensure that our party's votes remain together.

# Township project: Forum opposes land acquisition, urges Rahul to intervene

### 'Devpt not at cost of fertile farmland, rural livelihoods'

BENGALURU, DHNS

A forum of intellectuals and civil society members in Karnataka has written to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi seeking his intervention in the proposed acquisition of farmland for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) at Bidadi.

In an open letter addressed to the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, the group drew parallels between the Bidadi township proposal and the now-withdrawn land acquisition plan in Devanahalli.

The letter, issued by Karnataka Forum of Public Intellectuals, Cultural Voices and Civil Society, expressed concern over efforts to acquire large tracts of fertile land in Ramanagara district for the proposed AI-powered township.

They argued the government's decision to drop the Devanahalli proposal had struck a balance between development and concerns of farmers.

"While we fully support industrial growth, technological innovation and employment generation, we believe development should not come at the cost of fertile farmland, rural livelihoods and valuable green cover," the letter said.

Referring to Rahul's interventions on environmentally sensitive projects elsewhere in the country, including Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the group said economic growth must be reconciled with ecological responsibility and local livelihoods.

## DKS hasn't given up old habits: HDK on Bidadi poster campaign

BENGALURU, DHNS:: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said D K Shivakumar had not given up his "old habits" even after becoming chief minister.

Responding to posters put up about his family in Bidadi, he said, "A smear campaign is being carried out against my family through posters, when I am fighting for the cause of Bidadi's farmers. Even after becoming chief minister, Shivakumar has not given up his old habits."

Kumaraswamy said he had received information about the posters.

"I am not a person who will be weakened by personal vilification. If such attempts are made, my fight will only become intense. When a person is incapable of confronting issues politically, defaming is the last weapon for them and that is exactly what Shivakumar is doing".

Clarifying on reports that he owned 100 acres (in Bidadi region), the former chief minister said, "The total extent of land in my name is only 46 acres, which I purchased four decades ago. Let them show where the 100 acres are".

He said his wife Anita had purchased 36-37 acres of land.

# BJP delegation visits Bidadi, urges govt to not 'threaten' farmers

BENGALURU, DHNS

A delegation of BJP leaders met farmers around Bidadi on Wednesday and has urged the state government not to "threaten" farmers by sending goondas.

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not consented to the project.

Speaking to reporters, Vijayendra said: "For several days, farmers in and around Bidadi have been opposing the township and are constantly fighting. However, the government says 80% farmers have agreed for the land acquisition..."

Stating that some farmers had claimed there were threats at night by goondas, the BJP state president said: "Instead of standing by the farmers, the chief minister is supporting real estate. The government should not play with the farmers' lives at any cost. D K Shivakumar has a lot of places where he can do his real estate business. You should be ashamed to say that the prime minister has consented for this township."

A BJP delegation, comprising leaders of the Opposition R Ashoka, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, state party president B Y Vijayendra and Bangalore Rural MP Dr C N Manjunath, listens to the grievances of farmers at Byramangala village near Bidadi on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Vijayendra warned the chief minister, stating that there wasn't any government or chief minister unaffected by farmers' curse. The BJP delegation also included Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, his Council counterpart Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Bangalore Rural MP Dr C N Manjunath.

#### Balakrishna hits back

Hitting back at the BJP, Magadi MLA and Shivakumar's aide H C Balakrishna said the Vokkaliga leaders in the BJP and the JD(S) were unable to digest the fact that Shivakumar - a fellow Vokkaliga - had become the CM.

"When Jagadish Shettar was the KIADB (industries) minister, they sought to acquire 1,000 acres of land. When we visited the then CM Yediyurappa and Vijayendra, Vijayendra had asked us not to fight, and assured that he would get good prices legally. With what mindset will Vijayendra fight today?"

He accused BJP leaders of indulging in "opportunistic" politics.

# 15 days into forest portfolio, Shivakumar creates new Kanakapura wildlife division

**CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The government has created a new wildlife division for the forests of Kanakapura, the home turf of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, with a dedicated deputy conservator of forests (DCF).

The order dated June 16 says the Kanakapura wildlife division was created to help people and due to administrative reasons.

Three wildlife ranges have been taken out of the Cauvery wildlife sanctuary to create the new division.

The ranges include Mugguru in Kanakapura taluk, Sangama and Halaguru ranges in Malavalli taluk.

The order quoted a proposal sent by the chief wildlife warden that people from Kanakapura were finding it difficult to access the services of the department.

"People have to travel all the way to Kollegal to file petitions regarding forest conservation, man-animal conflict, poaching, elephant attack and crop compensation. They requested the shifting of division headquarters from Kollegal to Kanakapura," it said.

The move comes less than two weeks after Shivakumar retained the forest, ecology and environment department during the allocation of portfolios. Over the last few years, he has raised the issue of elephant attacks as a major problem faced by his constituency and demanded action.

"The original suggestion to the department was to shift the headquarters from Kollegal to Kanakapura. Accordingly, a proposal was sent to the chief minister. The department was told to revise the proposal to carve out a new division later," an official said.

Interestingly, the headquarters was shifted to Kollegal from Kanakapura in 2011-12.

It was reasoned that instead of shifting headquarters, it was better to carve out a separate 300 sq km wildlife division.

One official justified the creation of the division by pointing out that the Bannerghatta National Park was smaller, at 260.51 sq km.

The order directs the principal chief conservator of forests (head of forest force) to take necessary measures to open the headquarters in Kanakapura and provide necessary furniture and equipment.

It says the department shall transfer the DCF-level officer deputed to Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited to ensure there is no shortage of manpower.

#### Administrative ease

To a question, Chief Wildlife Warden Kumar Pushkar said the creation of the new division will help in administration.

"First, it will benefit people by reducing travel. The new division will help achieve better coordination with Ramanagara counterparts, which is crucial to managing elephant movement and conflict situations," he said.

Ramesh Jigajinagi

## Why should a Dalit be concerned about RSS?, asks BJP MP

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: BJP MP Ramesh Jigajinagi hit back at Home Minister Priyank Kharge, saying why should a Dalit person be concerned about RSS.

"Those who have taken on RSS have not survived. Why should a Dalit person be concerned about RSS?" he told a press meet here on Wednesday. "What will you achieve by registering RSS? Ask people what RSS is, and they will tell you. That is not the job of a home minister," he said.

He also launched an attack on Kharge, saying, "He was given home portfolio because his father worked for Congress. He lacks wisdom. Instead of making such statements, he should focus on his responsibilities and earn a good name".

# Shivakumar to set up monitoring unit for mega projects

### Delivery monitoring unit modelled on PM's 'Gati Shakti'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is setting up a Delivery Monitoring Unit (DMU) in his office so that he can directly supervise the implementation and progress of big projects costing above Rs 100 crore.

Senior IAS officer Munish Moudgil has been drafted into the chief minister's office (CMO) as principal secretary for programme and project implementation. He will be involved in DMU, sources said.

Shivakumar has less than two years in office to deliver the goods before the state heads to polls in 2028. The DMU, which is being set up, is a part of his plan to focus on infrastructure projects during his tenure.

A similar mechanism is used by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Andhra Pradesh's N Chandrababu Naidu, who directly monitor big projects in their respective states.

Shivakumar's plan is modelled on the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Gati Shakti, which brings multiple ministries together for integrated planning and coordination of infrastructure projects.

Even Manmohan Singh, during his second term as prime minister, set up a DMU in his office in 2009 to review flagship projects of the UPA government.

The DMU under Shivakumar will cover road, railway, Namma Metro, irrigation and urban development projects. Many big projects are awaiting approvals from multiple departments. A team in the chief minister's office will review the progress of major projects every month and resolve inter-departmental issues.

It is learnt that the CMO has already held preliminary meetings with officials to achieve coordination among the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), BDA, Bescom and Namma Metro for ongoing and upcoming projects in the city.

## India-UK free trade deal...

India-UK deal, From Page 1

"By securing immediate duty-free access on 99% of our tariff lines, we have systematically dismantled long-standing tariff walls," said Goyal.

"This will effectively level the playing field, allowing our textiles, leather, marine, engineering, and processed food sectors to compete with no disadvantage and supply their world class products," he added.

Tariffs of up to 70% on processed food products, up to 21.5% on marine products, up to 18% on engineering goods and auto components, up to 16% on leather and footwear products, up to 12% on textiles and clothing, and up to 8% on chemicals and pharmaceutical products will be reduced to zero.

## Jobin Joseph is CM's Delhi rep

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's aide Jobin Joseph has been appointed as his personal representative in New Delhi. He has been appointed on a pro-bono basis, a notification stated. Joseph has been Shivakumar's point of contact in the national capital for a long time, sources said. Joseph's appointment is coterminous with Shivakumar's tenure as CM.

THIRD YEAR
REMEMBRANCE

Sri M. Giri Gowda

Founder & President
Gangothri Group of Institutions

—13 Jan 1950 –18 Jun 2023—

*Time may have passed, but the memories of your love, guidance, and gentle presence remain as precious as ever.*

***You touched many lives with your kindness and left behind a legacy that continues to inspire those who knew you.***

*Remembering you with gratitude, love and affection today and always.*

***Remembered by***

***Smt. Lakshmamma and Children, Sons-in-law, Grandchildren & Family Members***

# D'sthala case: Prakash Raj denies 'Rs 200 cr conspiracy' charge

## Actor says he forwarded phone call with complainant to SIT

BENGALURU, DHNS

Actor and social activist Prakash Raj said he had merely raised concerns over developments related to Dharmasthala and refuted allegations that he was part of Rs 200 crore conspiracy to defame the temple town authorities.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, the multilingual actor said C N Chinnaiah (complainant in Dharmasthala burial case) had contacted him by phone through activist Girish Mattannavar. Chinnaiah spoke in Tamil and expressed the desire to meet him regarding the Dharmasthala issue, he added.

"I told him (Chinnaiah) to go to SIT officials and record his statement. Considering the seriousness of the matter, I asked that the conversation be recorded and forwarded it to the SIT chief to look into the call recording and later I met the SIT chief," Raj stated.

Chinnaiah, 51, had initially alleged that many unidentified bodies of young women who appeared to have been sexually assaulted and murdered were secretly buried in and around Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014, when he was a sanitation worker there.

He is widely known as the "masked man", as he appeared wearing a mask in public.

Based on his complaint, police exhumed bodies in and around Dharmasthala last year but did not find anything to substantiate the allegations. He later backtracked, claiming his initial allegations were part of a Rs 200 crore-plot to tarnish the Dharmasthala temple administration. He even filed a writ petition in the high court, naming Raj and others.

However, the actor maintained that his intervention stemmed from social concern and not from any personal or political agenda. "It is true that I was worried about the developments concerning Dharmasthala. As a social activist, I requested the government to form an SIT and conduct a proper investigation," he stated. He maintained that he never met Chinnaiah.

Actor and social activist Prakash Raj addresses a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Raj said he had only sought answers regarding alleged unnatural deaths and concerns raised by families of deceased women. "When injustice happens to our women, is it wrong to question it? Society as a whole must ask questions," he said.

Raj further said that senior officials, including SIT chief Pronab Mohanty, were informed about the matter. He claimed that a few days later, Mohanty told him over the phone that the individual in question had begun changing his version of events.

The actor also disputed claims regarding Chinnaiah's identity, stating that while he had been told Chinnaiah was from Mandya, the caller spoke in Tamil mixed with Telugu. He added that he could not recall the exact date of the conversation and challenged anyone claiming that he had spoken to Chinnaiah before the SIT was formed to produce documentary proof.

Refuting allegations that he had accepted Rs 200 crore to tarnish the image of Dharmasthala, Raj questioned the basis of such claims. He also accused certain sections of the media of misrepresenting Chinnaiah's statements and portraying him as "anti-Hindu."

# 11 deaths in 24 hrs: Mysuru Jayadeva says all cases critical

MYSURU, DHNS

Even as 11 deaths were reported at the Jayadeva Hospital in Mysuru within a span of 24 hours from 8 am on Tuesday to 8 am on Wednesday, medical superintendent of the hospital Dr K S Sadananda rejected claims of staff shortage or negligence.

As panic prevailed after videos on social media cited staff crunch for the deaths, Dr Sadananda attributed the deaths to delayed admission of critically-ill patients above 60 years of age who had suffered massive heart attacks.

Dr Sadananda said, "This hospital is a tertiary care referral hospital and the only cardiac care hospital for Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Hassan and Kodagu. We only get critically ill referred cases, which we do not refuse. The average death rate in the past 10 years has been about 6% to 8%."

"On Tuesday, we had an unusual number of admissions of critically ill cases. The ICU handled 25 cases," he said.

"The ICU has a capacity to handle 18 patients. Eleven of them died. I have reviewed all the cases, and all were aged between 60 and 85 years of age. They had comorbid conditions like diabetes. They suffered a massive heart attack and were wheeled in 12 to 24 hours late, beyond the golden hour. Hence, there has been an unusual number of deaths. There is no need to panic," he clarified.

Hospital director Dr B Dinesha, who also visited the hospital, said, "The hospital is internationally reputed. Its image should not be tarnished. It will only create panic among patients who depend on the hospital. It will also demotivate the staff who are very dedicated. Around 600 to 800 patients visit the hospital every day, of whom 20% are critical. The survival rate of aged critical patients with comorbid conditions is just 9%."

He said the hospital has 40 doctors, 24 cardiologists, 10 anaesthetists, one surgeon, and 10 postgraduates. "We need an additional 5% to 8% doctors. We are recruiting 25 permanent doctors for both Bengaluru and Mysuru units. This hospital will get another 200 beds, including 60 ICU beds," he added.

Dr Dinesh said, "We plan to start sub-centres of the hospital in all districts. We are starting one in Chamarajanagar soon, so that the burden on the hospital in Mysuru will reduce and the survival rate of patients will improve."

Medical Education Minister Sharana Prakash Patil also visited the hospital on Wednesday evening.

The hospital has treated 2,39,941 outpatients and 21,577 inpatients from January to December in 2025. Of them, 1,245 critically ill patients succumbed with a mortality rate of 5.77%. This year, from January to May, 1,00,630 outpatients and 9,461 inpatients were treated. Among them, 499 critically ill patients died with a mortality of 5.27%. This month, from June 1 to 16, 12,273 outpatients and 1,037 inpatients have been treated. Among them, 62 critically ill people have died with a mortality rate of 5.98%.

## Seafaring a ...

Ship attacks, from Page 1

"This has been happening throughout time. But we work together. We love all those people. They are great people," he said, sitting next to Modi.

The prime minister raised the issue in his meeting with the US president on Wednesday.

"Mr President, you and I agree that keeping the Strait of Hormuz open is vital for the global economy. India has consistently emphasised the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation, and we should work together on it," Modi told Trump.

"Hundreds of thousands of seafarers from India are working across the global maritime trade routes, and their safety is of utmost importance to us," the prime minister said, before applauding the US president for making "tremendous efforts" to work out the framework of the peace agreement with Iran. "I am confident that the issue of the safety of seafarers will receive the highest priority in the implementation of this agreement."

# US will help if India comes under attack: Trump

Modi-Trump, From Page 1

Trump's assurance about support to India in dealing with any attack by a third country came on a day his administration restored the US Indo-Pacific Command, one of the unified combatant commands of the American Armed Forces, to its original name, US Pacific Command. The move reversed a 2018 renaming that had been intended to underscore Washington's strategic focus on the Indo-Pacific and is being perceived as a symbolic sign of a US retreat from the Indo-Pacific framework amid the Trump Administration's efforts to improve ties with China.

The move also added to the uncertainty over the fate of Quad, a four-nation coalition forged by India, Japan, Australia and the US to counter China's muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region.

Modi on Wednesday conveyed to Trump India's appreciation for the progress in the efforts for restoring peace and stability in West Asia.

Trump reiterated that he had ended eight wars since returning to the White House as the 47th US president in January 2025, but refrained from specifically claiming credit for brokering the May 10, 2025, truce between India and Pakistan.

## Leopard killed on NH-50

**MARIYAMMANAHALLI (VIJAYANAGAR DIST), DHNS: A five-year-old leopard died after it was hit by an unidentified vehicle on the stretch of National Highway-50 near Timmalapura in Mariyammanahalli on Tuesday night. Leopards and bears, among other animals, prowl the forest that runs between Timmalapura and Shivapura along the side of the highway.**

## ◆ WEATHER ◆

**Overview:** Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

**Forecast June 18:** Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

**INTERIOR NORTH**

| Stations | Max | Min | Rain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Belagavi | 33.4 | 21.6 | 00 |
| Bidar | 39 | 26.5 | 00 |
| Vijayapura | 38 | 23.2 | 00 |
| Dharwad | 34.2 | 22 | 00 |
| Haveri | 34.2 | 23 | 00 |
| Kalaburagi | 39.6 | 26.8 | 00 |
| Raichur | 37.4 | 25 | 00 |
| **COASTAL** | | | |
| Honnavar | 32.6 | 25.7 | 00 |
| Karwar | 33.8 | 28.1 | 00 |
| Shirali | NA | NA | NA |
| Mangaluru | 32.7 | 24.4 | 23.2 |

**INTERIOR SOUTH**

| Stations | Max | Min | Rain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agumbe | 28.4 | 22.9 | 00 |
| Bengaluru | 31.8 | 22.2 | 0.3 |
| Ballari | NA | NA | NA |
| Chamarajanagar | NA | NA | NA |
| Chikkamagaluru | NA | NA | NA |
| Chitradurga | 33.2 | 22.5 | 00 |
| Davangere | 34.2 | 20.3 | 17 |
| Hassan | NA | NA | NA |
| Mysuru | 34 | 22.2 | 00 |
| Madikeri | NA | NA | NA |
| Kolar | 32.2 | 21.6 | 00 |

**OTHER STATIONS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Delhi | 33.3 | 23.8 | 03 |
| Kolkata | 37 | 28.4 | 00 |
| Mumbai | 35.1 | 29.3 | 00 |
| Chennai | 40.5 | 28.8 | 00 |
| Pune | 36.4 | 24.2 | 00 |
| Hyderabad | 37.6 | 28 | 00 |
| Th'puram | 33.4 | 26.2 | 0.2 |


**ಪಿಎಂಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ**
ನಂ.1, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಪಣಂಬೂರು–575010
(ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
**PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA**
NO.1, MANGALURU, PANAMBUR, KARNATAKA - 575 010
(An Autonomous Body Under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

**WALK IN INTERVIEW**

Walk in interview for the following posts on contractual basis for the academic year 2026-2027 on 22nd June 2026 **at 10:00 AM in PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1, Premises. Reporting Time: 8.30:00 am.**

| POST | Date of Interview |
|---|---|
| PGTs/ PGT HINDI, PGT BIOLOGY<br>TGTs/ TGT ENGLISH, TGT MATHS, TGT SANSKRIT<br>PRIMARY TEACHER<br>COUNSELLOR<br>SPECIAL EDUCATOR<br>BALVATIKA TEACHERS | 22 JUNE 2026 (MONDAY) |

For details of eligibility & educational qualification, please log on to **https://no1mangalore.kvs.ac.in** Applicants to produce original as well as Xerox copies (self-attested) of all certificates and one passport size photograph and attend the interview on the said date.
**Phone Number: 0824-2407337** **Sd/- Principal**



**Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.
**IFT No.: 06/2026-2027** **Dt: 15.06.2026**

**SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR TENDERS (KW-3 & KW-4) CALL-3/CALL-2**

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation &Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-3 & KW-4 through kpp-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz., http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the 02 works of coming under M.I sub-division SHIMOGA AND SHIKARIPURA amounting from Rs.80.52 lakhs to Rs.120.55 lakhs respectively. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 15.06.2026 to 29.06.2026 up to 17:15 hrs. Tender opening date at 17:30 hrs on 30.06.2026.. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website @ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** are final.

**Sd/-**
**Executive Engineer**
**M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.**

DIPR/SMG/No-71-06/zenkar/2026-27



**BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION**
**Office of the Executive Engineer,**
**Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor,**
**9th Main Road, Jayanagara East, 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.**
**No: EE/BSCC/TE&M Cell/TEND/08/2026-27** **Date: 17.06.2026**

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER**
**(Two cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)**

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors, firm registered in Bengaluru South City Corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the below works.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Selection of Agency for Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of On-Street Smart Parking Management System on Identified Streets in **BTM Layout Constituency** under PPP Mode (22 roads covering nearly 19.51 km. of road length, approx. 353 car slots and 2755 two-wheeler slots). **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 7,00,000/-.** Concession Period of Contract: **5 Years.** |
| 2 | Selection of Agency for Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of On-Street Smart Parking Management System on Identified Streets in **HSR Layout** under PPP Mode (12 roads covering nearly 18.02 km. of road length, approx. 627 car slots and 3355 two-wheeler slots). **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 11,25,000/-.** Concession Period of Contract: **5 Years.** |

**Calendar of Events: 1)** Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **18.06.2026. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: On **24.06.2026 at 15:00 Hours. in the Office of the Chief Engineer, BSCC, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagar East, 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560 011. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **02.07.2026 before 16:00 Hours. 4)** Technical Bid will be opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering & Mobility Cell, Zone-1&2, BSCC, Bengaluru on **03.07.2026 after 16:30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC.**



**Directorate of Medical Education**
**BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road,**
**Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798**
**E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com**
**No: ME/Tender/07/2026-27** **Date: 17.06.2026**

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION - TWO COVER SYSTEM (Through KPP Portal)**

Tenders are invited for the purchase of Medical Equipments for Hassan Super Speciality Hospital. Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded & applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the website. **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Commencement date for uploading of tenders - Dt: 18.06.2026**
**Pre-Bid Meeting - Dt: 02.07.2026 at 11.30 AM**
**Last date for uploading the tenders - Dt: 20.07.2026 before 5.00 PM**
**Date of opening of tenders (Technical Bid) - Dt: 21.07.2026 at 5.00 PM**

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560 002.**

**Sd/-, Director**
**Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.**
DIPR/CP/1191/Adverto/2026-27



**Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited**
**(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**
**(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)**
No: BESCOM/GM(A&HR)/BC-50/2524/2024-25 Date:17.06.2026

**NOTIFICATION**

The final selection list for the posts of Junior Power Man (NKK and KK) in BESCOM has been published on 11.06.2026 in accordance with the employment notification of the KPTCL dated 14.10.2024. **The SSLC marks cards of 870+28 candidates selected in the said final selection list have to be forwarded to the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) to verify the authenticity of the marks cards, as such the candidates** are informed to produce their original SSLC marks cards in person from **19.06.2026 to 04.07.2026** at Corporate Office, K.R.Circle, BESCOM. For further information,candidates shall visit BESCOM website **https://bescom.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/-**
**General Manager (Admin& HR)**
**Corporate Office, BESCOM**
**Belaku Bhavan, Bengaluru**

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP



**BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer,
(Animal Husbandry), Bengaluru - 560002.
**No:CVO/Hod/Ah/Tender/PR-14/2026-27** **Date:16-06-2026**

**RFP NOTIFICATION**

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION invites proposal in two cover system for Catching and Shelter Maintenance of Institutional dogs in BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION (BWCC) limits.

**Following are the Events of Bid Process:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** From **18-06-2026** onwards | |
| 2. | Tender Inviting Authority | Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC |
| 3. | Tender Accepting Authority | Commissioner, BWCC |
| 4. | Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement portal on **20-06-2026** upto **5:00** pm | |
| 5. | Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting on **20-06-2026** at **11:30** am, following Venue: Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 98. | |
| 6. | Last date and time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on **02-07-2026** upto **5:00** pm. | |
| 7. | Date and Time of opening of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on **03-07-2026** at **5:10** pm | |
| 8. | Place of Opening of RFP | Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal |
| 9. | Address for Communication: Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560098. Phone: 9480685206, Email:cvohodah.bwcc@gmail.com | |

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
2) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/-
**Chief Veterinary Officer,**
Head, Animal Husbandry Department
Bengaluru West City Corporation



**KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**
No.16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara,
Bengaluru - 560 052
Ph.: 080-22268677/ 78 / 79 Fax: 080-22268667
e-Mail : **kerc-ka@nic.in** Website : **htttps://kerc.karnataka.gov.in**
No: KERC/F-32/V-29/2026-27/2142 Date: 17.06.2026

**NOTICE**

**Sub:** Discussion Paper in the matter of Determination of tariff and norms in respect of Solar Power Projects (including Distributed Solar Photovoltaic (DSPV) Plants with different metering mechanism) for the period from 1st July 2026 to 30th June 2029 to public for filing Views/Comments/Objections/Suggestions if any-reg.

The discussion paper is available on KERC Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in** Written Views/Comments/Objections/Suggestions, if any, may be submitted to the Secretary, KERC **on or before 30.06.2026.**

DIPR/DD-C.P/1187/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/- Secretary**



**NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION**
**Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society**
**Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23**
**Ph: 080-23113588**
**No.:** NHM/SPMU/HR/Recruitment-State/Notification/50/2026-27(E-2075738) Date:17/06/2026

**Recruitment Notification under National Health Mission**

The Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society invites eligible candidates for Recruitment for the various vacant posts under National Health Mission.The posts are temporary and purely on contract basis. For detailed information login to **www.hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in** & **nhm.karnataka.gov.in** address.

Candidates are invited to submit the applications on or before **15.07.2026 upto 5:00 PM** to the office of Chief Administrative Officer, National Health Mission, 1st Floor West wing, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, 1st Cross, Bengaluru-560023.

| Sl. No. | Programme Name | Name of the Post | Number of Posts | Reservation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | RCH | NHM Consultant – 1 | 01 | — |
| 2 | | IT Consultant | 01 | — |
| 3 | | Programme Assistant | 02 | As per Reservation |
| 4 | NUHM | NHM Consultant – 2 | 01 | — |
| 5 | | MIS Data Manager | 01 | — |
| 6 | Routine Immunization [IMM] | Vaccine Cold Chain Manager | 32 Posts [1 Post Per District] | As per Reservation |
| 7 | PC-PNDT [Pre-Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Technic] | M & E Manager | 01 | – |
| 8 | NFDS [National Free Diagnostic Services] | NFDS Consultant | 01 | – |
| 9 | NLEP [National Leprosy Eradication Programme] | Leprosy Consultant | 01 | – |
| 10 | NOHP [National Oral Health Programme] | Oral Health Consultant | 01 | – |
| 11 | NPPCD [National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness] | NPPCD Consultant | 01 | – |
| 12 | Family Welfare | FPLMIS Consultant | 01 | – |
| 13 | Demography | State HMIS/MCTC Co-ordinator | 01 | – |
| 14 | RKSK [Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram] | RKSK Consultant | 01 | – |
| 15 | SIHFW [State Institute of Health and Family Welfare] | Technical Assistant | 01 | – |
| 16 | E-Health | Programmer / Operational Manager | 01 | – |
| 17 | NVHCP [National Viral Hepatitis Control Program] | CST Co-ordinator | 01 | – |

**Sd/-**
**Mission Director**
National Health Mission
DIPR/CP/1195/SA/2026-27



(Govt. of Karnataka)
**KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI**
Office Phone :0836 - 2373348 E-mail ID : directorkimshubli@gmail.com
**No:KMCRI: EST (1)A : Backlog:74:2026-27 Date:17-06-2026**

**NOTIFICATION**

Applications are invited from SC / ST eligible candidates for the following backlog posts i.e. Professors / Assistant Professor. The candidates are advised to fill the application in the prescribed form and submit as indicated in the KMCRI website **https://kmcrihubballi.karnataka.gov.in.** The last date for submission of duly filled application form with all necessary documents & fees is 02.07.2026 before 05:00 PM.

| Sl. No. | Cadre | Department | Posts | Roster |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Professor** | Endocrinology | 02 | SC - 1 |
| | | Radiotherapy | | ST - 1 |
| 2. | **Assistant Professor** | Vascular Surgery | 05 | ST (PH) - 01<br>ST (Ex) - 01<br>ST(R ) - 02<br>ST (KM) - 01 |
| | | Forensic Medicine | | |
| | | Physical Medicine Rehabilitation | | |
| | | Community Medicine | | |
| | | General Surgery | | |

For more details contact KMCRI website
**https://kmcrihubballi.karnataka.gov.in.**
**Sd/- Director**
**Karnataka Medical College & Research Institute, Hubballi**



**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
**(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)**

**No. SEE/TPC/KLB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2026-27/937** **Date: 16.06.2026**

KPTCL, invites bids for tender for the following work in Trans (Project) Circle, KPTCL, Kalaburagi:

**BID ENQUIRY No:** SEE/TPC/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-1/2026-27/ 110kV Gullahalli Cross Dtd: 16.06.2026 for Conducting preliminary & detailed survey of 110kV line pertaining to the work of Establishing 2X20MVA,110/11kV & 1x20MVA, 110/33kV sub-station at Gullahalli Cross by constructing 110kV DC line on DC tower using Panther conductor from existing 220kV Nimbarga sub-station for a distance of about 24Kms in Aland Taluk, Kalaburagi District.

The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on hyperlink "List of Tenders" on or after 19.06.2026. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele., Tr. (Projects) Circle,**
**KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.**

# US restores Pacific Command name, sparks row over India map

## Website depiction excluding PoK and Aksai Chin from India draws political criticism

WASHINGTON, PTI

The US has restored the name of the US Indo-Pacific Command to the US Pacific Command, reversing an eight-year-old decision.

The US Department of Defence announced the decision on Tuesday, saying that the designation honours the Command's deep historical roots, established in 1947 by then-President Harry Truman.

Also, the "area of responsibility" map on the Pacific Command website, which depicts an inaccurate picture of India's borders, has triggered political reactions in the country. The map in question excludes Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin from India.

The website section where the inaccurate map is placed contains a disclosure that the concerned web page was last updated in March.

New Delhi maintains that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India by virtue of the "complete, legal and irrevocable accession" of J&K to India in 1947.

Opposition party Congress has criticised the BJP-led government over the map issue. Party media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said: "Modi Ji's friends have an uncanny habit of acting against India, India's interests, and India's friends. The latest example? The US Pacific Command used an incorrect map of India, excluding Jammu & Kashmir and depicting PoK as Pakistani territory."

"One is compelled to ask: Why would any country need adversaries when its PM has thrown the country into such exploitative friendships?" Khera asked.

The Pacific Command operated under the USPACOM banner for over 70 years, standing as the oldest and largest of the United States' unified combatant commands, the Department of Defence said in a statement.

It was renamed as the US Indo-Pacific Command in 2018 during US President Donald Trump's first term in office.

"The US Pacific Command ... is back," Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said in a post on X.

The US Pacific Command extends from the US West Coast to India's western border.

Restoring the legacy USPACOM designation honours the Command's deep historical roots, the Department of Defence said.

In 2018, then-Defence Secretary James Mattis had said that the name was changed to Indo-Pacific Command in recognition of the increasing connectivity between the Indian and Pacific oceans.

**GEOPOLITICAL TWIST**

- The US has renamed the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) back to the Pacific Command (USPACOM), reversing a 2018 decision
- A map on the command's website depicts Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin outside India's boundaries
- New Delhi maintains that the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India

## 'Cybercriminals parasites': Apex court stresses harsh action

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday described cybercriminals as "parasites" who prey on innocent investors, stressing that the court must deal with them harshly.

A bench comprising of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana made the remarks while hearing a plea by a man seeking to club FIRs lodged against him across different states.

"You people (cybercriminals) are parasites. You take money from innocent investors and dupe them. For cybercriminals, we have to be very harsh," the CJI observed.

The CJI said victims of such crimes were spread across the country.

"You cheat someone in Tamil Nadu, then you go to Jammu and Kashmir and then to the Northeast," the CJI said, adding that it was in society's interest to keep cybercriminals behind bars.

The SC refused to entertain the plea for clubbing FIRs lodged against the petitioner in different states, saying he may approach the jurisdictional HC for relief.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, in Evian-les-Bains, France. PTI

## India always on side of peace: Modi after talks with Zelenskyy

**EVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE), PTI:** India will "always be" on the side of peace, placing the values of humanity over everything else, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday after holding talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Modi met Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the French commune of Evian-Les-Bains.

"Met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Evian. In recent times, India and Ukraine have been engaging extensively. This has been reflected in different areas of our cooperation," Modi said in a post on X.

"Our talks today were about reviewing different aspects of our cooperation. We both agree that trade ties need to be restored to what they were in the pre-war time. Also reiterated that India will always be on the side of peace, placing the values of humanity over everything else," he said.

India has been consistently calling for an end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

After the meeting, Zelenskyy said that India and Ukraine have "great potential for cooperation", and are already implementing joint projects.

Modi and Zelenskyy last held direct communication when the Ukrainian leader dialled him on August 30 last year.

# Modi pitches framework to boost trade, connectivity

## Flags concerns over impact of West Asia crisis

EVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE), PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday proposed a framework to boost connectivity and trade by combining the strengths of the G7 nations, India and the Global South even as he flagged concerns over long-lasting consequences of the West Asia crisis on developing countries.

The prime minister floated the proposal for setting up the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade (IMPACT) while speaking at an outreach session of the G7 summit in this French commune.

Modi emphasised that modern economic growth cannot be measured solely by trade volume or GDP numbers and that the true value of progress lies in its direction, and who ultimately benefits from it.

The impact of the West Asian crisis on fuel, fertiliser, and food supply chains will have long-lasting consequences for the Global South, Modi said, adding the most vulnerable countries should not bear the burden of geopolitical crises.

"If we truly want to strengthen international solidarity, the most vulnerable countries should not bear the burden of these crises alone," he said.

"Our international financial institutions must create support mechanisms that help developing countries absorb these shocks and maintain their economic resilience," Modi said.

The prime minister said the new framework to help the Global South can be modelled on the ambitious IMEC or India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor initiative.

"Drawing inspiration from the IMEC vision, we can work on connectivity projects with countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands," he said.

Combining the capital of the G7, India's talent, and the ownership of countries in the Global South, we could consider creating the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade, or IMPACT, he said.

"Its objective should be to create corridors that connect trade, technology, energy, and opportunity," he said.

The IMEC initiative was firmed up on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Delhi in 2023.

Billed as a pathbreaking initiative, it envisages vast road, railroad and shipping networks among Saudi Arabia, India, the United States and Europe with an aim to ensure integration among Asia, the Middle East and the West.

**GLOBAL OUTREACH**

- PM floats the proposal for setting up the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade
- Emphasises new framework can be modelled on the ambitious the ambitious IMEC
- Says most vulnerable countries should not bear the burden of geopolitical crises

## 'Failed as student': BJP attacks Rahul

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The BJP on Wednesday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of attempting to derive political mileage from students' concerns by holding a rally in Rajasthan's Kota days ahead of the NEET-UG re-examination.

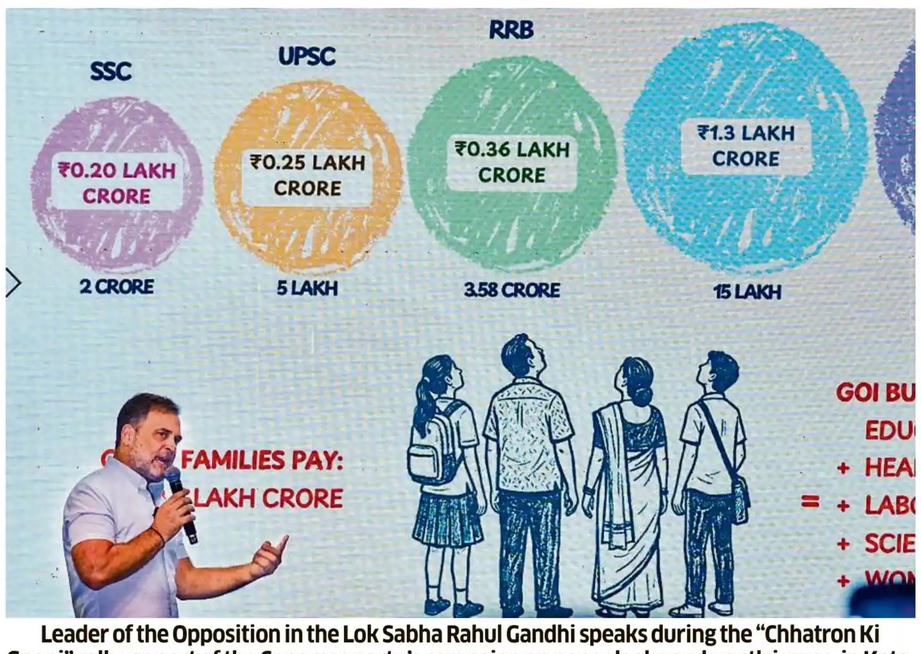
Addressing a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi questioned the timing of Gandhi's rally, saying it could distract aspirants preparing for the examination scheduled on June 21.

"NEET exam is going to be held after three days. This is the time when students should focus on their studies and preparation. There will be many opportunities for politics after June 21," Trivedi said.

The BJP leader alleged that Gandhi was "mentally harassing students" by organising a political programme in Kota, a major coaching hub that attracts lakhs of engineering and medical entrance aspirants every year. "By organising such a programme in Kota just three days before the examination, he is mentally harassing students," he said.

Stepping up his attack, Trivedi took a personal swipe at the Congress MP, saying, "Rahul Gandhi has failed in student life, and now he wants students to fail too."

The BJP spokesperson also rejected the Congress' claim that the rally was aimed at highlighting issues such as paper leaks and examination irregularities. "This is not a movement against paper leaks, but an attempt to gain political mileage from students," he alleged.




Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi speaks during the "Chhatron Ki Goonj" rally, as part of the Congress party's campaign on paper leaks and youth issues, in Kota, Rajasthan, on Wednesday. PTI

## India's education system an extortion machine: Rahul

KOTA, PTI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday described India's education system as a "rejection system" rather than a selection system, alleging that it places excessive financial burden and stress on students and middle-class families.

Addressing a gathering in the coaching hub of Kota, Gandhi said that the current education structure is "extremely stressful and unfair".

"India's education system is an extortion machine. We want a system that allows you to dream big," he said, adding that young people in the country are being subjected to too much pain, stress and unhappiness.

The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said that India's education system puts pressure on children, stresses them and crushes them.

"This is not good for the country. I want all of us to work together to ensure that no student in this country ever feels what this girl felt," he said at "Chhatron ki Goonj" Maha Rally in Kota where he interacted with students on various issues like paper leaks and unemployment.

"This is not a political meeting. This is a meeting about you, about the young people who are struggling to get a future. This evening is about you, the challenges that you are dealing with every single day," he said in his opening remarks.

He claimed that the system pushes students mainly towards a few career paths such as engineering, medical and civil services, while discouraging alternative aspirations.

"Why is India only asking children to do five things? The answer is money, because the system makes money through these five routes," he alleged.

Gandhi explained five paths of SSC, UPSC, RRB, JEE and NEET through a presentation.

He said lakhs of students are compelled to spend large sums on schooling, coaching institutes, uniforms and hostel facilities, with no guarantee of success in competitive examinations.

He cited examinations such as NEET, JEE, UPSC Civil Services Examination, SSC Exam and RRB, saying that lakhs of candidates compete for a very limited number of successful outcomes.

"For NEET alone, around 22 lakh students appear, but less than one lakh get selected. These are extremely difficult odds," he said.

Gandhi said that such patterns make the system brutal and exclusionary.

## SC to hear plea against NEET-UG re-test in July

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that a bench headed by Justice P S Narasimha will hear in July a plea challenging the decision to conduct a re-test of NEET-UG 2026.

On May 12, the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), held on May 3 amid allegations of a paper leak.

The CBI is currently investigating the matter, and a re-test is scheduled for June 21.

On Wednesday, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V Mohan ordered that a petition filed by Mangala Kohli, former Assistant Director General of Health Services, be listed before a bench led by Justice Narasimha, who is already hearing various cases about the NEET examination.

## 'Sorry for being a burden': NEET aspirant dies by suicide in Dehradun

**DEHRADUN, PTI:** A 23-year-old medical aspirant allegedly died by suicide in her room in the Patel Nagar area in Dehradun, leaving behind a note apologising to her parents for her "incompetence".

The Patel Nagar Police got information regarding the incident on Tuesday morning.

According to Circle Officer (Sadar) Ankit Kandari, preliminary enquiries revealed that Riya Kumari lived with her parents. She routinely studied late into the night and woke up late in the morning.

The matter came to light when her mother went to call her for breakfast around 10.30 am. When Riya did not open the door, her mother alerted her father. The family then forced the door open and discovered her. The police recovered a suicide note from the scene. "I am sorry for being a burden. It's nobody's fault but my own incompetence. The best option is to end it, I love you, I'm sorry," the CO said.

The family informed the police that there were no prior signs of depression.

Riya's father, a Kargil war veteran, mentioned that when she complained of discomfort due to the summer heat about 10 to 15 days ago, they promptly installed an air conditioner in her room.

The official indicated that frustration over a lack of success in her studies seems to be a contributing factor behind Riya's extreme step.

Riya had scored over 96% in her Class 12 examinations and had recently appeared for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), which was later cancelled. She was preparing for the re-examination scheduled for June 21.

Sources close to the family shared that this was Riya's third attempt at the medical entrance exam. She did not clear the exam on her first attempt because she had fallen ill. In her second attempt, she improved her performance, scoring around 400 marks.

At the same time, she was pursuing her graduation and was in the final semester of her BSc programme. Sources added that she felt confident about her recent NEET exam.

(*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help*)

## After fatal blast, fresh push for Vizag Steel-SAIL merger

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Senior steel sector executives on Wednesday renewed calls for merging the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), saying that the consolidation would benefit both organisations and reinforce the domestic steel industry.

The longstanding demand has gained fresh traction in the wake of a fatal explosion at the plant on June 8, in which several workers lost their lives.

A delegation from the Steel Executive Federation of India (SEFI) visited the plant, holding discussions with senior officials. The talks centred on measures needed to improve the financial health of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the flagship company that operates the plant.

The delegation made clear its intent to press the Centre on the merger, pledging to raise the issue through legislators during the upcoming parliamentary session.

SEFI representatives urged the management to adopt a constructive approach towards resolving long-pending executive grievances, including promotions, wage revisions and pension-related matters.

The delegation also met representatives of the Steel Executive Association (SEA), whose executive committee outlined the challenges facing plant executives. SEFI representatives assured them of forthcoming discussions with Union Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy and Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik, pledging to secure all necessary support for the steel plant from SAIL.

Despite the present difficulties, the delegation expressed confidence in the plant's recovery, noting that cyclical downturns are inherent to the steel industry.

TWO DECADES ON

## 'Why was I spared?': TN fire survivor finds answer in civil service

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

On July 16, 2004, SS Jenifer miraculously escaped death simply because she excused herself from joining her classmates on the first floor of their school building to finish her classwork.

Minutes later, she saw plumes of smoke rising from the thatched roof of the Krishna English Medium School in Kumbakonam. The building had caught fire, and 94 students, including Jenifer's friends, were charred to death, in one of the deadliest fire accidents in Tamil Nadu's history.

S S Jenifer

Twenty-two years later, Jenifer, who survived the accident along with her brother, is awaiting her appointment as a deputy collector after clearing the Group-1 exam conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).

The spark to become a bureaucrat ignited within weeks of the tragedy when she saw the then Thanjavur district collector J Radhakrishnan tirelessly working to help survivors secure admission in other schools so they could continue their studies.

"I didn't even know what a district collector did back then, but the way Radhakrishnan sir helped the survivors and their parents navigate the trauma, and how gently he convinced us to testify as witnesses before the court, created a lasting impression on me. These interactions sowed the seeds of my civil services dreams," Jenifer told *DH*.

After failing to clear the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exams since 2017, Jenifer shifted her focus to the TNPSC in 2021. It took four years of intense preparation, aided by coaching centres, to finally clear the Group-1 exam. Jenifer will soon receive her appointment orders as additional director (rural development), fulfilling her lifelong dream.

"I feel it is my duty to serve the people. For a long time, I wondered why I was spared in that fire accident, and I think I have finally found the reason," she said. "Whenever I met the parents of my friends who died in the tragedy, I felt sad. I think I now have a purpose in my life."

Achieving her dream was not easy. During the Covid-19 pandemic, her father was paralysed and funds dried up. "It was my friends and mentors at coaching centres who helped me survive," she said.

# HC notice to Centre on Telegram ban plea; no interim relief to firm

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre on a petition by messaging platform Telegram challenging the government's decision to temporarily block access to the app in India till June 22, ahead of the NEET 2026 re-examination scheduled for June 21.

A single-judge bench of Justice Tejas Karia directed the Centre to file its reply by Thursday and posted the matter for hearing at 2.30 pm.

The court, however, granted no interim relief to Telegram.

During the hearing, the court questioned whether the government's action was proportionate.

Defending the move, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that Telegram had been repeatedly asked to fix loopholes in its system but failed to do so, resulting in the leakage of exam material.

A counsel for Telegram contended that the platform acted swiftly, taking down offending links within an hour of receiving complaints from the authorities. He pointed out that the government provided another list of links, which was also promptly acted upon.

The counsel contended that the Centre failed to follow Rule 9 of the IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, which deals with emergency blocking. "This has been going on since June 1. Where is the emergency? We responded on June 9, saying we had removed everything. Yet, the blocking order was issued suddenly," he submitted.

Mehta clarified that the issue was not overnight and that complaints had been coming in since May.

Telegram's counsel further argued that a complete ban on the platform was "overboard" and arbitrary, affecting 150 million users in the country, including lakhs of students and educators who use it for study material and competitive exam preparation.

"You need to block specific content, not the entire platform," he said.

Mehta, however, sought time to file a detailed reply, saying he would place facts and figures before the court to justify the invocation of emergency power.

**NEET MOVE**

- Messaging platform challenges decision to block access ahead of NEET retest
- Govt defends move citing repeated exam leaks, loopholes
- Telegram says ban 'overboard' and arbitrary
- 150 million users affected, including students and educators

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

# Now, a measure of unseen labour

By assigning a notional value to a homemaker's labour, the Supreme Court of India has established an important guideline for monetising women's household work. This is, critically, a recognition of the social and economic value of the labour. A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh described homemakers as "nation-builders", ruling that unpaid domestic work should be monetised at a minimum of Rs 30,000 per month, with a 10% increase every three years. The ruling came in a 25-year-old case involving a road accident in Punjab. A claims tribunal awarded an insignificant amount as compensation for the death of the victim, a woman. After her family filed appeals in higher courts, the Supreme Court finally decided the case. The principle laid down by the Court is set to guide decisions in similar cases.

The Court said: "...it is ironic to describe a homemaker as dependent on earning members when, in reality, the household's functioning depends substantially on the homemaker". It said the Rs-30,000 benchmark should serve as the basic minimum monthly income for calculating the loss of domestic care, which should be considered a separate head of compensation. The apex court also directed that in cases where the homemaker is a part of the family's earning workforce, the value of domestic care as prescribed should be added to the monthly income. This ruling will have far-reaching implications not only for calculating compensation in accident cases but also in situations where women's role as an economic agent must be considered.

**The Supreme Court's ruling acknowledges the economic value of long-overlooked domestic work**

According to the Time Use Survey conducted in 2019, women aged between 15 and 59 years spend over seven hours daily on unpaid domestic and caregiving work, compared to less than three hours by men. The Court cited the survey, which also found that women perform 2.6 times more unpaid domestic and caregiving work, even when they contribute economically. Women's unpaid work is estimated to contribute 15-17% of India's GDP. These figures point to entrenched patterns of a society where domestic work is taken for granted, and where traditional roles assigned to women are normalised, significantly lowering their participation in the labour force. While the ruling is unlikely to change the financial dynamics within families, it should lead to a better understanding of women's contributions to the household. It has done well to provide a legal framework to measure the value of women's work in situations where it did not count until now.

# The fatal loop of regulatory failures

The tragic fire at a popular pub in Mysuru that claimed two young lives should shame Karnataka's civic and regulatory machinery. The familiar script has already begun unfolding: police investigations, forensic reports, inspections, fire safety audits and promises of stern action. Soon, the headlines will fade, and business will resume as usual until the next tragedy. This pattern has repeated itself with disturbing regularity. After Bengaluru's Mudpipe Café fire in 2023, an audit revealed that nearly 170 pubs and bars had failed to comply with several regulations, including those governing fire safety – a figure that highlights the gravity of the situation. Earlier, in 2018, the Kailash Bar fire killed five workers who were sleeping on the premises after business hours; the exit had been locked from the outside, and the building had no windows.

The Fox Den blaze in Mysuru demonstrates that the state continues to treat fire safety as a paperwork exercise rather than a matter of life and death. Preliminary findings indicate that an electrical short circuit ignited dry straw, bamboo, and hay used to create an exotic ambience, rapidly filling the premises with toxic smoke. Customers and staff scrambled for survival, with some jumping from the upper floors while two workers remained trapped in the kitchen. The National Building Code (NBC) prescribes stringent norms for assembly occupancies such as pubs and bars. These require multiple unobstructed exits, adequate stair widths, occupancy limits, fire-retardant interiors, functioning firefighting systems, and valid fire clearances. The widespread use of highly combustible decorative materials, illegal rooftop structures, and cramped layouts violates these regulations.

**Preventable tragedies demand relentless enforcement. Violations must carry real, severe consequences**

The uncomfortable truth is that many pubs and bars are disasters waiting to happen. High footfall, alcohol consumption, loud music, dim lighting, and enclosed spaces make rapid evacuation difficult. Illegal floors, blocked exits, or combustible interiors can turn a minor incident into a catastrophe within minutes. Such violations cannot exist without the collusion or negligence of civic authorities and fire officials responsible for granting licences and conducting inspections. Rarely are errant officials held accountable. The government must resist the temptation of another round of cosmetic enforcement. Every pub and bar should undergo an independent fire safety audit within a fixed timeframe. Erring establishments must be shut down until all deficiencies are rectified. People visit pubs and restaurants to relax with family and friends, not to gamble with their lives. Public safety cannot be compromised for commercial convenience. Unless enforcement becomes relentless rather than reactive, Karnataka will continue counting casualties instead of preventing them.

BILLS AND BEYOND

# Saving the Tenth Schedule

India's anti-defection law is losing its teeth, making reform an urgent democratic necessity

NAGENDAR SHARMA

A two-centuries-old maxim – politics is the art of the possible – is now being followed in its truest spirit in India.

What was impossible in mid-April appears to be a near certainty in either the monsoon session or even earlier through a special session of Parliament. The case in point is the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's newfound confidence about passing the Constitution amendment bills on the delimitation of constituencies and women's reservation. The One Nation One Election bill becoming a reality in the near future, too, cannot be ruled out.

How is it that a government which suffered its first defeat on the floor of Parliament in its 12-year tenure has managed to turn the tables on the Opposition within a span of two months?

N Chandrababu Naidu, a key NDA ally and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, normally a man of few words, is categorically talking about passing the delimitation bill, barely two months after the government fell short by 54 votes on the bill in the Lok Sabha.

*Prima facie*, this confidence can be attributed to the mass defections from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), both in its legislature and parliamentary groups, following the party's big defeat in the recent assembly elections in West Bengal. A closer look reveals that the MPs and MLAs defecting from the TMC have no fear of losing their membership, since precedents from Maharashtra over the last four years show that the anti-defection law is practically dead.

Students of politics and law may argue against declaring an existing law dead. A plain reading of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, commonly known as the anti-defection law, can provide context. The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985, as the 52nd amendment, and was further amended in 2003, as the 91st amendment, to curb defections of elected MPs and MLAs.

Is it time to take a re-look or decide on the future of the Tenth Schedule? The answer is an unambiguous YES. The anti-defection law must either be removed or rewritten to clarify the scope and limitations of its provisions. Since the NDA government is now nearly assured of a two-thirds majority in both houses of Parliament due to the recent spate of defections, fresh Tenth Schedule amendments should precede legislation on delimitation, women's reservation, and the One Nation One Election proposal for the sake of clarity.

It is time the updated Tenth Schedule clarified one important question

beyond doubt: If two-thirds of the MPs or MLAs break away from their parties (particularly opposition parties) to support the government of the day, would they be immune from disqualification in the public interest because their action also provides political stability to the system?

Some may argue that such a step will turn the Tenth Schedule on its head. The alternative solution is to scrap this anti-defection law altogether in the national interest. It can be a practical step forward, rather than keeping alive a law that has been butchered beyond recognition.

The larger questions necessitate such alternatives: How can breakaway TMC MLAs in the West Bengal Assembly have a recognised Leader of the Opposition, without a valid merger or a party name? How can Lok Sabha MPs merge with a new party, in disregard of the Tenth Schedule?

### Towards legal clarity

Additional context exists in the recent merger of seven Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MPs with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the looming split among the Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs in the Lok Sabha, especially since both original parties oppose these MPs' actions.

The petition for the disqualification of the defected AAP MPs under the Tenth Schedule has been met with silence from the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Such is the situation when the Tenth Schedule is clear that a merger can only be of the original political party and not of any breakaway group. Furthermore, a two-thirds majority of MPs and MLAs is required for any merger, and only if their original political party authorises it.

This was made clear by a five-judge Constitution bench headed by then Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, in its May 11, 2023, judgment in *Subhash Desai vs Principal Secretary, Governor of Maharashtra*. The country's top court ruled that a political party and its legislative group are two separate entities, requiring permission from the original political party for any merger. In this case, regarding the split in the Shiv Sena, since Eknath Shinde formed a separate group and did not merge with any political party, the Supreme Court asked the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker to decide on the disqualification. The Court also made it clear that their action of breaking away from the Shiv Sena offered them no protection.

It is a different matter that the Speaker's action of not disqualifying them is pending before the Supreme Court. A similar route was followed when the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) underwent a split. In both cases, the Election Commission of India (ECI) recognised the breakaway groups as the original parties and handed them the party names and symbols. The matters are pending in the Supreme Court.

These protracted legal procedures and the resulting uncertainty necessitate an urgent reframing of the Tenth Schedule.

*(The author is a former journalist who writes on legal and legislative issues. He was also the media advisor to the Delhi Chief Minister from 2015 to 2020)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# From mango season to frog season

Everyday, my grandson rushes to check on his 'friend'

SHYAMALA MANI IYER

It was mango season, and the excitement in the air was palpable. It was time for the parcel to arrive from Vadakencherry.

Vadakencherry was where my aunt lived. It is a small village in Palakkad, Kerala. She was a farmer who, though old and single, cultivated her own land. She grew rice and maintained a wonderful vegetable and fruit garden around her house. Tamarind trees, coconut palms, gooseberry, plantain, mango and jackfruit trees were all found in her compound, besides, of course, seasonal vegetables.

We received parcels periodically from her, depending on the season. During the tamarind season it was tamarind; whenever they were available, raw bananas; then gooseberries, jackfruit and, of course, the most eagerly awaited of all, mangoes, during the mango season.

A system was followed for the parcel to reach us. It was packed in a gunny bag and loaded onto the bus coming to Bengaluru. We were sent the bus details, and we collected the parcel at the nearest bus stop. This has been going on for four or five years now, and the system has never failed.

This year, as usual, during mango season, the phone was abuzz. When was Aunty sending the mangoes?

One day, the eagerly awaited phone call came – the mangoes had been loaded onto the bus. We reached the bus stop and collected the gunny bag. The fragrance of mangoes wafted through it.

We brought the bag home and opened it immediately. To our shock, a frog jumped out! Croaking loudly, it began leaping around the drawing room. My three-year-old grandson was ecstatic and immediately gave a chase. It took us a few moments to react before we joined the hunt. It was my grandson who finally managed to catch it. He brought a bottle from somewhere and, miraculously, managed to place it over the hopping frog. We heaved a sigh of relief and tried to extract the bottle from the boy, but he would not give it up.

"It's my friend," he declared, promptly naming him Tommy. He placed the bottle beside him while going to bed, and the frog kept croaking and jumping through the night. We punched a couple of holes in the top to keep it alive.

Just then my aunt called. She seemed distraught. "Was there a frog in the parcel?"

We were shocked! How did she know?

It turned out that the frog belonged to her granddaughter, Visalam. She had wanted to hide it from her brother and had tucked it in the gunny bag. Now she was crying for her frog.

This was an unexpected turn of events and we did not know how to handle it.

Finally, the matter was resolved by my aunt convincing her granddaughter that the frog was safe with us, and by convincing my grandson that it would be best to release it into the garden of our apartment complex, where it could play with its friends.

Everyday, when he goes downstairs, my grandson rushes to check on his 'friend'. And, quite miraculously, the frog does appear when he calls out to it!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Revisit the law, put a stop to defections

Regional parties in India are witnessing unprecedented turmoil: 58 of the 80 TMC MLAs have now decided to merge with the NCPI party, and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) is currently facing a new political crisis in Maharashtra, with six of its nine Lok Sabha MPs reportedly preparing to defect to the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. The existing anti-defection law seems to favour politicians who jump ship more often for gain. As individual defection is banned and *en masse* switch-over is permitted, regional parties are struggling to keep their brood together in the face of larger parties circling to poach their members. A jump should not be allowed at all, whether it is *en masse* or factional. They must be required to resign from their positions and run for re-election if the will of the voters is to endure. But who will bell the cat? For it is the politicians who are the lawmakers.

**N R Ramachandran**, Chennai

## End all conflicts

The Iran-US agreement, which is due to be signed in Geneva, will hopefully bring to an end the 108-day conflict. The proposed MoU comes as a great relief to the entire world, as the conflict had impacted most of the economies in the world. Free movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz will ease the crude pressure. However, the Israeli PM expressing his disagreement with the US-Iran deal, stating that Israel was not consulted and is not on board with the deal, is a matter of grave concern. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu is perhaps suggesting that the conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon will continue despite the deal. The conflict in Lebanon will end only if Iran can prevail upon Hezbollah to stop operations against Israel and, better still, if it is disbanded. The US, on the other hand, should convince Israel to exercise restraint in its operations in Lebanon. Now, the international community should focus on ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has been raging for over four years.

**K R Jayaprakash Rao**, Mysuru

## Falling multiparty system

Apropos 'Ascent through allies: The BJP playbook' (Jun 17), the ruling dispensation at the Centre appears to have succeeded in following its road map for changes in the country through systematically wrecking Congress and breaking down regional parties in states. It is disheartening to see the utterly undemocratic, brazen defection of elected representatives for temporary inducements as constitutional institutions look away. It is indeed disappointing to witness the dismantling of the once well-known multiparty system, which was hailed as a global model. However, political parties cannot survive solely on greed and opportunism. They must understand that they can only thrive if the constitutional foundations are safeguarded.

**Albert Smith**, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

PM Modi is a beautiful-looking man, looks like an angel but is a tough negotiator.

**Donald Trump**, US President

There's no weapon that slays its victim so surely as praise.

**Edward Bulwer-Lytton**

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

# History will test West Asia truce

The US-Iran agreement eases immediate tensions, but durable peace depends on overcoming unresolved distrust

ANAND KUMAR

The announcement that the United States and Iran have reached an understanding to end months of conflict has brought relief across the world. Financial markets reacted positively, oil prices fell initially, and governments welcomed the possibility of peace in one of the world's most volatile regions. Yet the optimism is tempered by a sobering reality: this is not a peace treaty but only a framework for future negotiations. The agreement offers a pause in hostilities and perhaps a chance to reshape relations between Washington and Tehran, but it remains fragile and uncertain.

The relief is understandable, given the fears of a wider regional war and the disruption of the Strait of Hormuz, which threatened global energy supplies and intensified inflationary pressures across economies. The reopening of the strait and the lifting of the US naval blockade are therefore significant achievements.

However, peace on paper does not necessarily translate into peace on the ground. Shipping companies remain cautious, warning that it may take weeks or even months before normal traffic resumes through the Strait of Hormuz. Insurance costs remain high, parts of the maritime infrastructure have been damaged, and confidence in the agreement's durability is still lacking.

The biggest uncertainty concerns the issue that has haunted US-Iran relations for decades: Iran's nuclear programme. President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran has agreed never to possess nuclear weapons. Vice President J D Vance has said that international inspectors will return to Iran and that the country's stockpile of highly enriched uranium will eventually be dismantled. Tehran, however, insists that the current agreement is only a preliminary understanding and that substantive negotiations on the nuclear issue will take place later.

This divergence is not a minor detail; it is the core weakness of the agreement. If the two sides cannot agree on what they have already signed, how will they negotiate the more difficult issues that lie ahead? The nuclear question has challenged diplomats for more than two decades. The 2015 agreement was hailed as a diplomatic triumph, only to unravel when the US withdrew from it in 2018. That experience continues to shape Iranian thinking. Tehran remains wary of making irreversible concessions without guarantees that a future American administration will honour the agreement.

The issue of sanctions is equally contentious. Conflicting reports have emerged about whether Iran will receive access to frozen assets or sanctions relief. American officials insist that any economic benefits will be linked to Iranian compliance. Iranian sources, meanwhile, have suggested that significant economic gains may follow. Such ambiguity may help both governments portray the agreement as a victory at home, but it also creates expectations that could become sources of dispute.

### Compulsions at home

Domestic politics in both countries will shape the future of the agreement. In the US, lawmakers from both parties have demanded more details. Many members of Congress are unhappy that they were not adequately consulted. For Trump, the timing of the agreement is politically advantageous. A prolonged war, accompanied by rising oil prices and uncertain outcomes, could have damaged his prospects ahead of the midterm elections. A ceasefire allows him to present himself as both a strong leader and a peacemaker.

Iranian leaders are also portraying the agreement as a strategic success. They argue that despite months of conflict, their government has survived, their regional allies remain intact, and their influence in West Asia has not diminished. Tehran believes that the US and Israel failed to achieve their broader objectives. Such narratives matter because neither side wishes to appear weak. This could complicate future negotiations.

Israel is unlikely to relax its security posture and may act unilaterally if it believes the agreement threatens its interests.

The costs of renewed conflict would be enormous for the world: higher energy prices, economic disruption and another cycle of violence in an already unstable region. Yet optimism must be tempered with realism. The agreement only postpones the hardest questions, rather than resolving them.

History offers reasons for caution. US-Iran relations have long been marked by distrust and competing strategic visions. Agreements have been reached before and later abandoned. Yet diplomacy often begins with fragile understandings. This agreement may prove to be merely a pause before another confrontation. But it may also become the foundation of a more durable peace. Which path it takes will depend not on today's celebratory announcements, but on the difficult choices Washington, Tehran, and their regional partners make in the months ahead.

*(The writer is an associate fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses)*

# FIFA World Cup tells yet another 'Kerala story,' this one of harmony

**DATELINE Thiruvananthapuram**

ARJUN RAGHUNATH

Much ahead of the kick-off of the FIFA World Cup in North America, a small region in South Asia was gearing up to welcome the event, with many streets decked up with huge cutouts and banners of popular players—Lionel Messi, Ronaldo and Neymar—and teams such as Argentina, Portugal and Brazil.

What Kerala has been witnessing is not just fanfare but a festival of harmony that tells yet another 'Kerala story' to the world.

Even though India has yet to play in the FIFA World Cup, the fanfare in Kerala could make one feel that Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar are locals. The fans do not know which language they speak, where exactly their countries are located, or what their politics or religion might be. The only thing they know is that they all belong to the same religion and world called football.

Football fanfare in Kerala, which is at its height in north Kerala districts such as Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kannur, also plays a key role in the state's communal harmony, keeping people bonded irrespective of caste or creed.

"We have read about Mahatma Gandhi effectively using football as a strategy to promote social unity and non-violence. Hence, there is no doubt that the game plays a key role as a unifier in Kerala too," points out veteran writer M N Karassery.

After facing discrimination in South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi formed football clubs as he found the game an effective method to promote his philosophies. He formed the Passive Resisters football clubs in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban. He was also one of the founding members of the Transvaal Indian Football Association in 1896.

"It is often youngsters who are misled by vested-interest groups into getting involved in communal or other unlawful acts. But the youngsters of the Malabar region are fully engaged in football, cutting across caste or creed. They have no free time to spare, as they play football whenever they can. Football has no religious discriminations because football itself is a religion," says Ashraf Bhava, a former footballer and secretary of the Seven's Football Association in Kerala.

There are many assumptions about how the game was introduced to Kerala. It was indeed the British who brought football to the state. Being a low-cost game, having no religious taboos attached to it, and offering opportunities for many players to participate at a time are among the reasons veteran footballers cite for its popularity in Kerala.

The British officers of the Malabar Special Police (MSP), based in Malappuram, are believed to have played a key role in promoting football, as their enthusiasm for the game influenced the local people to take it up. The MSP now runs a football academy.

"During our childhood, we used to make footballs using dried plantain leaves and waste cloth from tailoring shops. Playing football with a real ball and wearing boots were just dreams for children during those days," recollects 70-year-old Bhava.

"As the craze for the game grew, we started reading football reports in newspapers and listening to radio commentaries. Television was a rare gadget in those days. We used to walk long distances, even at odd hours, to watch matches on televisions wherever they were available. Gradually, the fanfare became colourful with posters and cutouts of popular players, especially after people were inspired by players like Pele and Maradona," says Bhava.

Kerala's football fanfare received international attention during the 2022 World Cup after FIFA shared on social media photographs of huge cutouts of iconic players in north Kerala districts.

Bhava believes that the lack of large grounds may have contributed to Seven's football becoming more popular among the locals than the eleven-a-side format. Seven's tournaments are a routine affair in Malappuram, and even foreign players, mostly from African countries, are hired by local football clubs. As many as 24 teams are registered with the Seven's Football Association.

Karasserry, who hails from Kozhikode, also recollects how he became fascinated by newspaper reports on football. "I knew newspaper reports of Pele's retirement by heart," he says.

While FIFA World Cups often become platforms for political protests and messages, Kerala's hardcore football fans are not particularly receptive to such trends. Though Iran's football team did not have much fan following in Kerala, flex boards backing the team and carrying photographs of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, along with 'Free Palestine' messages, appeared in some parts of the state during the World Cup.

"Despite global tensions, the FIFA World Cup is progressing without any hiccups in the US. That reflects the spirit of the game, which has no politics," says Bhava.

Kerala also witnessed former Indian footballer U Sharaf Ali contesting as a Left Front candidate in the recent Assembly polls from Nilambur in Malappuram. However, he failed to make much impact in the football-crazy region.

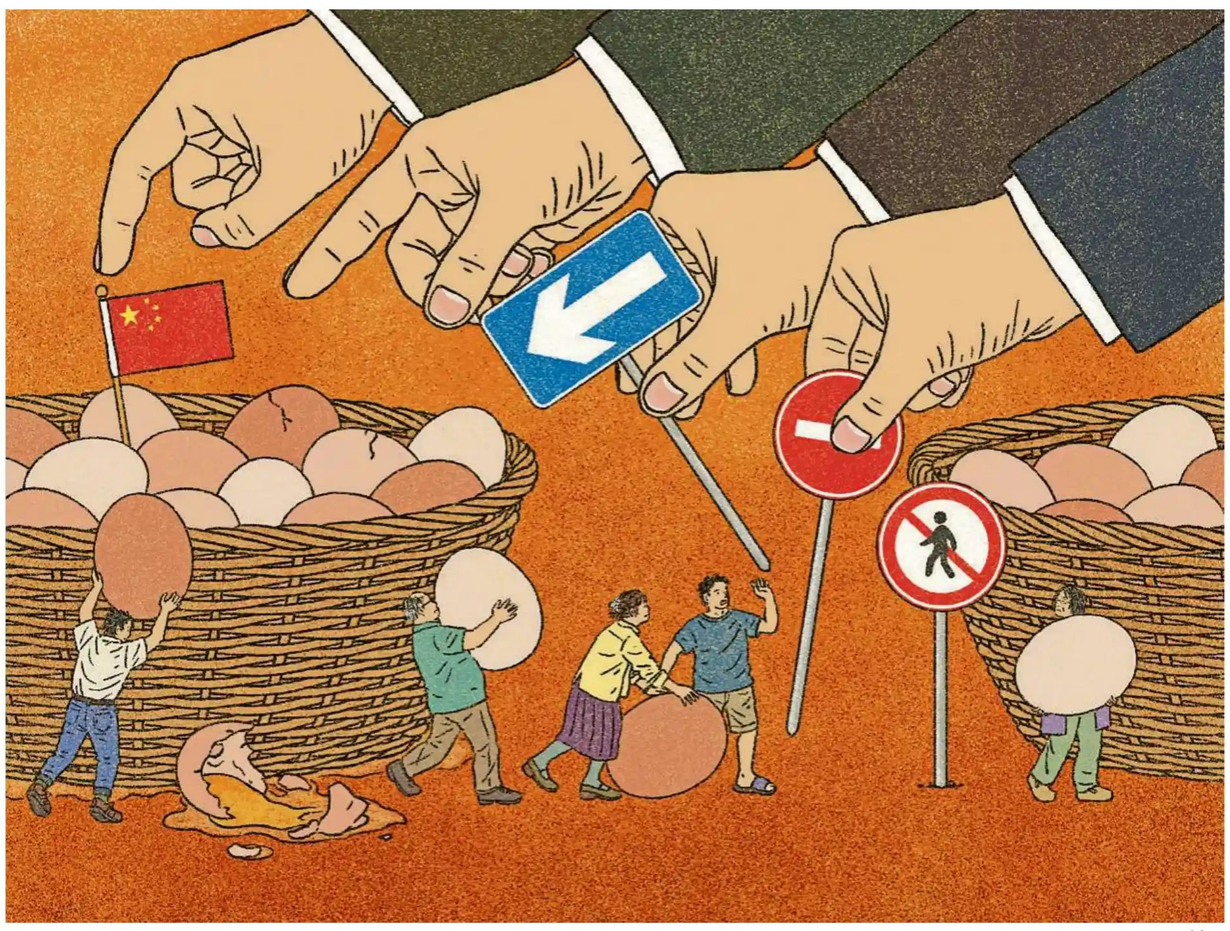
"It is always good that famed footballers remain acceptable to all rather than become identified with any particular section," commented a hardcore fan from Nilamabur.

Attempts by the previous government led by Pinarayi Vijayan to bring the Argentinian football team, and even Messi, to Kerala for a friendly match were also viewed by some as a votebank strategy aimed at wooing football fans.

With women joining the FIFA fanfare across the state and increasingly turning up at makeshift public screening venues as well as local tournaments, football-crazy Kerala may soon witness more women lacing up their boots for local tournaments too.

**DHNS**

## Eager to keep capital within its borders, China is restricting the ways individuals can engage with global markets



NYT

# Beijing's message to its citizens: Your money belongs at home

LI YUAN

Beijing has long built walls between Chinese citizens and the outside world: The Great Firewall blocks out information, and passport controls and exit bans restrict movement. But money had been different.

In an unspoken bargain between the government and its people, political limits could be tolerated as long as families were largely free to accumulate, protect and quietly diversify their wealth.

That bargain is fraying.

Over the past couple of years, Chinese citizens have increasingly invested in overseas securities, and especially in the US stock market. But in recent weeks, Beijing has moved to close informal channels between Chinese households and global capital markets. It gave several Hong Kong and Singaporean-based brokerages with significant mainland clientele two years to wind down those accounts. It expanded rules on overseas investment to explicitly cover individuals for the first time, threatening to confiscate vaguely defined "illegal gains."

In Hong Kong, long a gateway to overseas investing for mainland residents, banks and brokerages have tightened requirements for opening an account. Some brokerages told their mainland clients that the clients could sell US stocks but not buy them. The Chinese social media app known as RedNote announced that it had cracked down on posts teaching people how to open US stock trading accounts.

Beijing is pulling every available lever to mobilise the nation's private wealth as a resource for its state-led drive toward technological self-reliance and national rejuvenation. In a major speech published in January, China's leader, Xi Jinping, argued that financial latitude must be subordinated to national security, warning that China must guard against not only the risks of opening up but also risks that are "deliberately engineered" by geopolitical adversaries.

Geopolitical considerations are shrinking opportunity for Chinese investors in other ways. Amid the intense rivalry between the United States and China, SpaceX excluded Chinese investors from its history-breaking initial public offering last week. At the same time, Beijing is erecting its financial walls precisely when ordinary Chinese have the most reason to look outward for more lucrative places to put their savings.

In the United States, stocks and bonds are the default investments for long-term savings. But retail investors in China tend to shy away from the country's stock exchanges, known as the A-shares market, viewing it less as a vehicle for building household wealth than as a speculative arena swayed by policy, rumour and sudden state intervention. The market has many nicknames, including "the meat grinder."

Instead, for two decades, middle-class families invested in real estate. The housing market was booming, and people bought apartments not just to live in but as retirement plans, college funds and assets for their children. Nearly one-third of urban households owned two apartments, and more than 10% owned three or more apartments, according to a 2020 survey by China's central bank.

After the housing market collapsed in 2021, however, many people lost faith in the asset that had underpinned their sense of security. Already big savers because of the country's spare social safety net, Chinese people retreated into defensive savings. By the end of 2025, China's household bank deposits had reached the equivalent of $24.4 trillion, nearly tripling over a decade.

But that money is earning diminishing returns. Three-quarters of household savings are in fixed-term deposits. But those rates have fallen to around 1%, while high-yield savings accounts in the United States offer up to around 4%.

At the same time, the US stock market kept going up. For financially sophisticated members of the Chinese middle class, overseas markets became a hedge against China's economic slowdown, political uncertainty and weakening domestic returns.

The Institute of International Finance, a trade association based in Washington, estimated that resident capital outflows from China reached $809 billion in 2025, the highest level on record.

In 2025, Hong Kong overtook Switzerland as the world's largest cross-border wealth management hub, partly driven by money coming from mainland China, according to Boston Consulting Group.

But Beijing increasingly sees this outflow of Chinese wealth as unpatriotic. Hu Xijin, a former editor-in-chief of the nationalist tabloid *Global Times* and one of China's most prominent pro-government commentators, argued on the Weibo social media platform that the government's latest moves served "the overall interests of Chinese society."

"If stock investors buy more A-shares and fewer US stocks, or if some people refrain from hastily selling their homes in China to buy property in the West, the overall effect would be positive," he wrote.

Keeping savings at home and interest rates low is vital to Beijing. The country's hugely indebted local governments have been restructuring their debts, relying on cheap domestic capital to ease interest burdens that consume roughly one-fifth of their revenue. The savings are also backing China's enormous investment in infrastructure, robotics, semiconductors and other industries deemed key to self-reliance and national security.

But that is not where sophisticated investors want to be. A technology worker who asked to be identified only by his last name, Xu, for fear of government retribution, has put as much money as China's law allows into a US brokerage account since 2023.

Now all of the difficulties created by Beijing's financial control leave Xu wondering, "Is my money still mine?"

Currently, Chinese citizens can legally convert their renminbi savings to $50,000 in foreign currency. Officially, that money can be used only for things such as tourism or education, but using the quota for overseas investment in stocks or property has long been a tolerated grey zone.

For now, the quota remains the only legitimate opening for individuals to move money abroad. But there have been reports that banks are asking more questions about the use of the money, and people are worried that converting renminbi could become more difficult.

"So many people in the world can trade the US stocks. Why can't the Chinese?" Xu asked.

He is frustrated that SpaceX has excluded investors in China from participating in its IPO, the biggest in history. OpenAI and other potentially lucrative artificial intelligence companies may follow suit.

Some are now trying to slip under the wire and move their money abroad before the government blocks the passage completely.

In the past two weeks, investors feverishly traded workaround tips on social media and in group chats. Some flocked to Hong Kong to open bank and brokerage accounts at smaller firms with looser requirements. Others explored options to visit the United States and open accounts in person.

"No amount of financial controls can prevent people from moving their assets to places that offer better opportunities," said Stephen, an IT worker in Guangdong province who also asked to be identified by only one name.

**The New York Times**

# AI governance in courtrooms

ANMOL RATAN

The Supreme Court of India has released the Draft Regulations for the Use of AI in Courts 2026. Grounded in the principles of human primacy, transparency, accountability, data protection and judicial independence, the regulation, once put in force, would be made applicable to the Supreme Court of India, High Courts, Tribunals and Statutory Commissions. With its progressive integration and deployment in courts, the regulation marks a timely effort to examine and govern AI as a radical tool of justice.

At the onset, the draft regulations mandate that AI is to be treated as an assistive tool that shall not supplant the independent exercise of judicial authority. The ultimate authority to determine matters of law, fact and justice shall vest exclusively in the judicial officers. AI usage must comply with the Constitution of India, applicable laws, and principles of natural justice while safeguarding due process, fair trial, equality before the law or access to justice.

Regulation 19 of the draft regulations permits the use of AI for functions such as case management, cause list preparation, scheduling hearings, docket prioritisation and automated transcription through text-to-speech and speech-to-text tools. While such tools will significantly lighten the administrative burden of courts, concerns remain regarding their efficacy and accuracy. A key concern is accent adaptation in speech AI, as many AI models are trained on American English, leaving out other languages and regional accents. Although initiatives such as the Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS) have explored AI's multilingual capabilities in India, AI models continue to face difficulties in understanding diverse speech patterns and tonalities. In a linguistically rich country like India, such limitations of AI may result in misinterpretation and higher costs in terms of justice delivery and fairness. Addressing these issues will require an improved training dataset and robust human in-the-loop oversight.

The draft regulations allow for the use of AI in automated transcription of court proceedings subject to mandatory human review. Such tools can enhance judicial efficiency, given the ever-growing case pendency and capacity constraints of the fair copy departments to handle it. It also allows the use of AI in legal research and citation verification, which is critical given the numerous instances of lawyers using fictitious cases and hallucinated citations in their pleadings. In a Supreme Court case, a lawyer cited a non-existent case, *Mercy v. Mankind*, in their pleadings. In *Ayinge v. London Borough of Haringey*, the UK High Court issued a cost order against a lawyer who cited fictitious reports and citations. In *Bevins v. Colgate*, the lawyer was de-barred by the court for citing fake cases. In a case in Australia, a solicitor self-reported having used AI to produce fake cases and submitted it before the court without verification.

Regulation 20 of the Draft Regulations, which identifies non-permissible uses of AI, forbids using personal data for AI training without regulatory approvals and using AI tools alone in adjudication and sentencing. Significantly, it prohibits AI-based "risk scoring" to predict recidivism. Such restrictions are reflective of concerns of algorithmic biases that were first exemplified in the use of COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions) in the US courts. Based on input data, COMPAS predicts a risk score ranging from 0 to 9.9 that indicates one's risk of recidivism. In the 2016 case *Loomis v. Wisconsin*, it was found that the COMPAS system was biased towards African-American individuals.

The submission of AI-generated evidence in court without a disclosure is not permissible under the Draft Regulation. Such guardrails are necessary given AI's extensive capabilities to generate detailed fabricated outputs that can be used as evidence. This creates two sets of problems—first, real evidence can be set aside under the suspicion of being AI-generated, and second, fabricated outputs may be appraised as credible evidence in courts of law. Courts have already encountered such scenarios in the case of *R v. Medow*, in which the defendant charged with assaulting a police officer alleged that the body camera footage was deepfake. In another case of *Mendones v. Cushman*, the purported evidence of harassment, including chats and videos, was later found to be AI-generated.

The draft regulations establish a comprehensive institutional framework which includes an apex body and five specialised committees. It requires technical and ethical impact assessment, maintenance of AI registers, periodic audits and an AI incident database. Guidelines on AI procurement and private sector engagement, along with specific regulations addressing issues of judicially sensitive data, capacity building, and grievance redress, are also rightfully included in the regulations.

*(The writer is a lawyer and researcher)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976**

### 25 pc excise relief for 43 items

New Delhi, June 17
The Government today announced excise duty relief of 25 per cent on a wide range of goods, numbering 43, which are produced in excess of the output level in a selected base year. The scheme, coupled with recent excise duty concessions given in the budget, is intended to give a major boost to production which in turn should have a favourable impact on the general price level. The items listed for relief include metals, chemicals and plastics, fertilisers, cement, coffee, tea, commercial vehicles, tractors, tyres and electric batteries and fans.

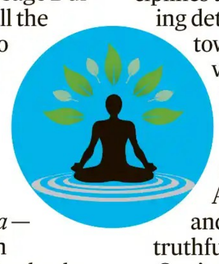
**25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001**

### Solution impossible without Hurriyat, asserts Sattar

Islamabad, June 17 (UNI)
Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar has said a solution to the Kashmir tangle was not possible without the participation of the All Party Hurriyat Conference.
In an interview to Associated Press of Pakistan before his departure to the US, Mr Sattar advocated the inclusion of the Hurriyat Conference in the summit meeting between Prime Minister A B Vajpayee and Pakistani Chief Executive Gen Pervez Musharraf. "Trying to settle the Kashmir issue without the Kashmiris is like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark," he said.

OASIS | SANDHYA VASUDEV

# Challenge yourself with a vow



The *Bhagawath Purana* has a story of King Ambareesh, an ardent Vishnu devotee and a strict observer of the *ekadashi vrata*. Once he invites Sage Durvasa, well known for his short temper, to partake of meals on the morning following *ekadashi*.

As sage Durvasa fails to turn up at the breakfast *muhurat*, worthy *pandits* advise the king to consume the holy water *(theertha)* and continue to wait for the sage.

Durvasa just then arrives and is blinded by anger seeing the king consuming the holy water, and assuming that the king would have had lunch too, invokes a demon to kill the king. But Lord Vishnu's *sudarshan chakra* kills the demon and chases sage Durvasa, who initially runs to all the demi gods and ultimately to Lord Vishnu to save him.

Lord Vishnu says he is unable to save him as he is primarily his devotee's protector and instructs the sage to seek the king's pardon. The *ekadashi vrata*—a fortnightly fast along with mindful prayers observed by the devout -- has tremendous potency and is supposed to absolve a human from all sin, and assures one of Lord Vishnu's protection at all times.

In general, any vow or penance disciplines the body and mind, inculcating determination and willpower towards commitment. Taking vows like not speaking to a person or not visiting a place due to a past incident reflect negativity and it does not matter if they are broken.

A vow is a pledge to oneself and tests one's sincerity and truthfulness as an individual.

One's character is slowly moulded based on the vow one takes and later maintains with courage in the face of any opposition. For instance a simple vow to go for a walk every evening is a good example and when you involve a friend to accompany you the vow touches the two of you.

Pledging a certain portion of one's income towards charity is a vow that kindles generosity—an altruistic mindset. When such positive vows are undertaken they become inspirational and motivational to others. Gandhi-*ji*'s vows of fasting to drive home a point to the British *raj* are renowned. He said, "A vow is a purely religious act which cannot be taken in a fit of passion. It can be taken only with a purified and composed mind with God as witness".

## LS Speaker calls Abhishek for talks on rebel MPs issue

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday sent a fresh invitation to Trinamool Congress (TMC) National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee for a meeting on June 19 to present his case on recognising 20 rebel MPs who switched over to a little-known party.

Abhishek, also the Trinamool Lok Sabha floor leader, was first invited on short notice to meet Birla on Monday. But he could not do so, as he was then appearing before the Enforcement Directorate in a case and had sought fresh time. On Monday, sources claimed the Speaker's invite to Abhishek gave him just two hours to appear before him, but the party informed him that he would not be able to do so.

Following a request from Abhishek, sources said, Birla has asked him to meet him on Friday at 5 pm, sources said. He will be travelling to Delhi for the meeting on June 19.

Trinamool sources said Abhishek had received the email from the Speaker's Office at 5 pm on Wednesday. The invite has come as Birla has decided to hear both factions before taking a decision on the demand of 20 rebel MPs to provide them separate sitting and recognition of their merger with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India.

## 'Charkha satyagraha' over RS nomination rejection

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** A group of 33 "concerned citizens" on Wednesday launched a 'charkha satyagraha' here demanding free and fair elections against the backdrop of rejection of Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination in the Rajya Sabha polls.

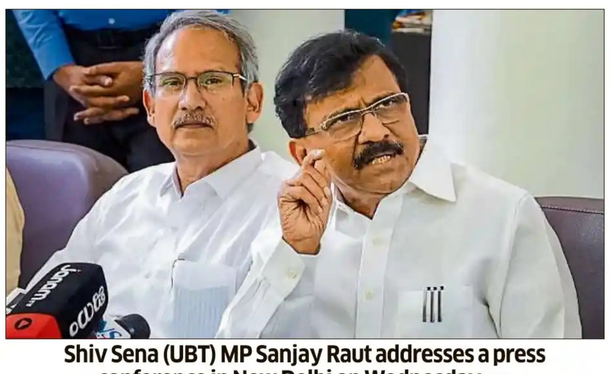
The group also released an open letter to the Election Commission, urging it to immediately reconsider and reverse the rejection and restore Natarajan's candidature. They said if this cannot be met on short notice, the EC should consider postponing the poll process.

The letter said the rejection of nomination went against the provisions in the EC's handbook for returning officers, which makes it clear that a nomination should not be rejected merely because allegations have been made that the affidavit contains false information.

Natarajan's nomination was rejected after the BJP claimed that she had not provided details of a court notice against her, which the Congress claimed was not necessary as no FIR was registered, a chargesheet filed, or a court had taken cognisance of it. The letter highlighted that a Hyderabad court had subsequently dismissed the petition against her.

# Shiv Sena (UBT) in merger churn

### MPs offered Rs 50 crore to defect, says Sanjay Raut



Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

**MRITYUNJAY BOSE**
MUMBAI, DHNS

As the BJP seeks to bolster the NDA's strength in Parliament, there is growing buzz about a section of Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs camping in Delhi to seek a merger with the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Sensing trouble, Shiv Sena (UBT) on Wednesday rushed its top leaders to Delhi to meet Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla.

"The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) continues to be recognised as a single political party represented in the House through its duly authorised leader and whip," Shiv Sena (UBT) said in a communication to Birla, which was delivered in person by its leader in the Lok Sabha, Arvind Sawant.

Shiv Sena (UBT) has nine members in the Lok Sabha, and the rebel group needs to muster support from at least six MPs to evade the provisions of the anti-defection statutes under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.

Sources say, as in the case of Trinamool Congress, any petition by the rebel Sena (UBT) MPs can be taken up for consideration only after the lawmakers, along with their petition, present themselves before the presiding officer in person.

Earlier in the day, the party RS MP Sanjay Raut held a press conference in Delhi, alleging that money was being offered to party MPs under 'Operation Tiger' to engineer defections.

"I was told that the rate is Rs 50 crore and that Rs 15 crore each would be delivered by tonight," Raut told reporters, with only three of the nine party LS MPs - Anil Desai (Mumbai South Central) and Rajabhau Waze (Nashik) in attendance.

Raut also alleged that party MP Omprakash Raje Bhupalsinh Nimbalkar was lured with a "favourable verdict" in his father Pawan Raje Nimbalkar's murder case to switch over from the Shiv Sena (UBT) to Shiv Sena.

It is not clear whether the six rebel MPs who were not present at the Delhi press conference have officially approached the LS secretariat.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has called a meeting of its parliamentary party in Delhi on Thursday and issued a whip to all the MPs to be present.

The move is being seen as an attempt by the party to test the scale of rebellion and create a legal firewall in anticipation of a possible court battle.

The rumbling in Shiv Sena (UBT), a key constituent of the I.N.D.I.A bloc comes close on the heels of the rebellion in the Trinamool Congress after Mamata Banerjee's party lost power in West Bengal last month.

Meanwhile, there is no confirmation on whether the rebel group officially met the speaker and submitted any petition on Wednesday.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has 10 MPs — nine in the Lok Sabha and one in the Rajya Sabha.

## The new politics of defections

**SHEMIN JOY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's first major defection by Charan Singh in Uttar Pradesh in 1967 and political somersaults in later years may have been engineered primarily to muster a simple majority. However, the latest Parliament defections are being speculated as something triggered by the Modi government's failure to muster a two-thirds majority to clear a Constitution Amendment Bill on delimitation.

A section of Trinamool Congress, AAP and Shiv Sena (UBT) have switched sides, amid speculation that the ruling BJP is attempting to cobble up numbers before bringing a Constitution Amendment Bill that alters the contours of delimitation again in Parliament.

While the road to a special majority in the Lok Sabha is long, the NDA is closer to the two-thirds majority threshold.

The NDA numbers have now swelled to 314 in the Lok Sabha with 20 Trinamool MPs defecting to its side, and it could touch 320 if Shiv Sena (UBT) rebels take the final leap. In the Rajya Sabha, the NDA will have 151-152 seats by next week, and once bypolls to three seats in West Bengal are conducted, it would touch 154-155, just 8-9 seats short of the two-thirds majority.

In the past 12 years, the BJP has benefited from defections, with Arunachal Pradesh seeing 43 of the 44 Congress MLAs ending up in the saffron party in 2016, enabling it to form the government. In the current Assembly, Congress has just one MLA while three others defected. In Manipur and Goa, the BJP managed to form governments after defections from the Congress.

However, experts and political commentators see a shift in approach, as defections are now being used to shore up numbers to ensure a special majority in Parliament, which was envisaged by Constitutional framers as a check against a government misusing its majority to make changes in the Constitution.

While some members in the Constituent Assembly had argued for having a simple majority for Constitutional amendments, Drafting Committee chairperson BR Ambedkar had defended the need for a two-third majority for its checks and balances value.

Senior RJD MP Manoj K Jha told *DH*, "What we are witnessing cannot be understood through the traditional lens of political defection or routine party-hopping. It represents something far more systematic — a syndicated effort to decimate the very foundations of democratic politics."

Political commentator Rasheed Kidwai said the special majority provision is to ensure building consensus and to prevent "manufacturing of support" for amending the Constitution. "Whatever is happening now is against the spirit of the Tenth Schedule. The 2024 mandate makes it clear that you need to build consensus. Manufacturing numbers are not a reflection of the will of the people," he said.

# UP minister claims SP will 'split'; Akhilesh hits back

### Says some BJP leaders planning to jump ship

LUCKNOW, DHNS

Days after the Trinamool Congress split and amid reports of a rebellion in the Shiv Sena (UBT), a senior Uttar Pradesh minister on Wednesday claimed that the Samajwadi Party (SP) would also face a split soon, with many of its leaders expected to join the BJP.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya also made similar claims saying 25-26 SP MPs are ready to jump ship. The SP currently has 37 MPs from Uttar Pradesh.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav immediately countered, saying that several BJP leaders themselves were planning to switch sides.

He added that only those "who were scared" would leave, dismissing the minister's claim.

Om Prakash Rajbhar, senior UP minister and president of the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), an alliance partner of the BJP in the state, claimed that SP national general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav had written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, listing SP leaders who wanted to cross over to the BJP.

"The SP is heading for a big split," Rajbhar claimed in a social media post, though he didn't reveal the names, saying he would disclose them at the right time.

**KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA**
**UP Deputy Chief Minister**

"Around 25-26 MPs in the Samajwadi Party are prepared to break away. We are not trying to split the party, but by 2027 they will leave on their own.

**AKHILESH YADAV**
**Samajwadi Party chief**

"If you look at UP, several SP MLAs, MLCs and even Rajya Sabha members were taken away. There must have been some self-interest, some lure or some fear... People who get scared leave their party.

### Fear of ED action

He pointed to the alleged mining scam and Gomti riverfront scam during Akhilesh's tenure, claiming there was panic in the SP over possible ED action in the two cases.

Akhilesh dismissed the charge, saying the BJP had a history of engineering defections by instilling fear in rivals through central agencies.

Making a counterclaim, he said BJP leaders were themselves preparing to jump ship. "Many people who are with them (BJP) will open their cards when the time is right," he told reporters.

Accusing the BJP of equating 'dharm' with 'dhan' ("religion means money"), Akhilesh said only a team of "brave" people could take on the party.

"The SP is a very strong party... those who are scared will go," he added.

## CITIZEN CONNECT

People gather to seek information about central and state government welfare schemes during the 'Jan Kalyan Shivir' programme, in Nadia district, West Bengal, on Wednesday. PTI

## Akhilesh targets CM Adityanath over Gorakhpur 'failures'

**LUCKNOW, DHNS:** Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying that the maximum 'gorakh dhanda' (irregularities) had taken place in Gorakhpur, the latter's home district.

Akhilesh said that as many as 487 primary schools had been closed in Gorakhpur over the past 10 years, as a result of which 1,500 people lost their jobs.

He said the CM made the maximum number of visits to Gorakhpur since assuming office and that the district was now at the top in terms of crime against Dalits. "Crime against women increased by 14% while the number of primary health centres came down from 77 to nine," he added, releasing a booklet containing what he claimed was data on the dismal situation in the district.

# Probe into Ram Temple offerings deepens as SIT questions staff

**SANJAY PANDEY**
LUCKNOW, DHNS

As the three-member SIT continued its probe into the alleged embezzlement of cash offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, former BJP MP Brijbhushan Sharan Singh on Wednesday said there appeared to be some "truth" in the "missing fund" allegations, even as a prominent saffron leader claimed that hundreds of *Ram Shilas* (bricks) made of gold, silver and *ashtadhatu*, donated by devotees, were missing.

"There is no smoke without fire... the truth will soon come before the people... Whatever has happened there (at the Ram Temple) is not good... the smoke which is billowing has some truth," Singh said.

He said that the government should take the matter seriously, adding that people associated with the Ram Temple movement had raised the issue.

Meanwhile, Dharm Sena president Santosh Dube, who was also associated with the Ram Temple movement, on Wednesday claimed that as many as 1,250 *Ram Shilas* made of gold, silver and *ashtadhatu*, brought from different parts of the country and abroad, were missing.

Dube, who lodged a police complaint in the matter on Tuesday naming four senior office-bearers of the Ram Temple Trust, said he would approach the court if the police failed to register an FIR.

He claimed these *shilas* were earlier kept at Karsevakpuram in Ayodhya. "Now there are only mud bricks," he alleged.

One of the plaintiffs in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suits, Mahant Dharm Das, has demanded a CBI probe into the allegations.

The three-member SIT, formed to investigate the allegations, on Wednesday quizzed some employees who were among those entrusted with the task of counting the cash offerings at the Ram Temple. The SIT has been asked to submit an interim report within a week and a final report within a fortnight.

Five suspects have been identified in connection with the 'missing fund'. They include Ramshankar Yadav alias Tinnu Yadav, LuvKush Mishra, Anukalp Mishra and two others.

All of them were among those who counted the offerings.

**DONATION SCAM**

- Dharm Sena president Santosh Dube claimed that as many as 1,250 'Ram Shilas' made of gold, silver and 'ashtadhatu' were missing.
- Five suspects have been identified in connection with case
- One of the plaintiffs in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suits demands CBI probe

## ED questions Pinarayi's daughter for over 9 hours

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** Former chief minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter T Veena was questioned for over nine hours by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials in Kochi on Wednesday as part of the probe into the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) pay-off case.

Veena appeared before the ED by around 10.30 am following a fresh summons issued to her by the agency. The quizzing ended late in the evening.

Last month, the ED had carried out raids at Vijayan's houses in Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur. CPM activists had attacked ED officials during the Thiruvananthapuram search. Hence, a heavy police deployment was made at the ED office on Wednesday.

Veena and her IT service firm received payments totalling Rs 2.7 crore from CMRL while Vijayan was the CM. While Veena and CMRL maintained that it was part of a business deal, they could not produce convincing evidence.

## Privilege notice against Kharge sent to Rajya Sabha panel

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan has referred a notice of breach of privilege against Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge for his comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and lowering the dignity of Parliament and MPs to a parliamentary panel for examination.

Mallikarjun Kharge

Six BJP MPs in the Rajya Sabha had jointly submitted the notice against Kharge, also the Congress president, accusing him of making "continual and deliberate use of grossly derogatory, disparaging and disrespectful" remarks against Modi and lowering the dignity of Parliament and its members.

The chairman on Tuesday referred the notice to the Committee of Privileges headed by Deputy Chairman Harivansh for examination, investigation and report.

Asked about referring the notice to the privileges committee, Congress Rajya Sabha Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh said, "This is the usual BJP toolkit to harass, threaten, intimidate and silence those who are exposing the self-declared non-biological one."

"On consideration of the facts, the chairman, Rajya Sabha, has referred on June 16 the matter under Rule 203 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report," Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody said in a notification issued by the secretariat.

Members of the Privileges Committee are Sudhanshu Trivedi, Deepak Prakash, Sumer Singh Solanki, Surendra Singh Nagar, Manan Kumar Mishra (all BJP) and Kartikeya Sharma, an Independent MP.

## Suspected militant killed in 'encounter' in Manipur; AK-47 seized

IMPHAL, PTI

A suspected militant was killed in an alleged encounter with security forces in Manipur's Churachandpur district, police said on Wednesday.

The encounter took place between "militant groups" and a joint team of the Assam Rifles and the Army at Henglep sub-division of the district on Tuesday, they said.

"During the encounter, one suspected militant was killed. An AK-47 rifle, along with magazines, ammunition, explosives, and other incriminating items, was recovered from the spot," a police statement said.

"A case has been registered in this connection," it said.

Meanwhile, in a statement, ruling BJP MLA from Henglep Letzamang Haokip condemned the incident, claiming that "a civilian has lost his life at the hands of those entrusted with his protection". He also demanded a judicial and independent inquiry into the incident.

Healthcare personnel wheel a patient on a stretcher during the transfer of three Kuki youths from the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, in Imphal, on Wednesday. The transfer was carried out under tight security following protests over their admission to the hospital. PTI

Continued violence in Manipur has made it hard to focus on development activities, Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh said on Wednesday, and alleged that many people do not want peace in the state.

Addressing a programme in Imphal West district, Singh also said that after becoming chief minister, he visited Jiribam and met with Kukis, Meiteis and Paites, and has been working on bringing peace.

"A day after I came from Jiribam, a bomb attack at Tronglaobi in Bishnupur killed two children and injured their mother, leading to protests and unrest for a month," he said.

Singh said, "I think there are some people who don't want peace in our land. I think some people presume that earning money would not be possible if peace prevailed.

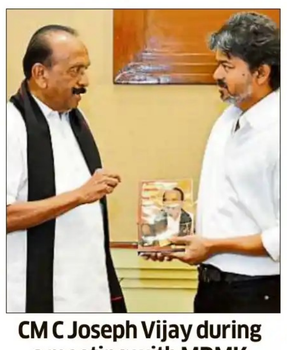
## Vaiko's MDMK may walk out of DMK-led alliance to support TVK

**E T B SIVAPRIYAN**
CHENNAI, DHNS

Vaiko's Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) looks all set to walk out of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA), in the first step towards supporting the new TVK government. Since both MDMK MLAs were elected on DMK's Rising Sun, the party could not extend support to the TVK dispensation like the VCK, IUML, CPM, and CPI did in the first week of May.

It is understood that the two legislators will quit as MLAs, contest the bypolls and extend their support to TVK if they win. This is also part of the TVK's strategy to increase its individual and alliance strength in the Assembly, where the majority is now wafer-thin.

However, there is also a suggestion that the MLAs can function independently and support the TVK, but that will attract disqualification if the DMK insists on action against them.



CM C Joseph Vijay during a meeting with MDMK general secretary Vaiko. PTI

Both Vaiko and his son Durai Vaiko, the Lok Sabha MP from Tiruchirapalli, have publicly regretted contesting on the DMK's symbol and even suggested they would have followed the VCK and Left.

Sources told *DH* that the MDMK will formally announce its decision to walk out of the DMK alliance at its General Council meeting on June 27. On Wednesday, Vaiko met CM C Joseph Vijay, ostensibly to invite him for an event.

## Punish CM Mann under new anti-sacrilege law: Badal

**CHANDIGARH, PTI:** Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday demanded punishment for Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann under the new anti-sacrilege law.

Badal accused Mann of challenging the authority of the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal seat of Sikhs.

His remark came after Akal Takht Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Gargajj declared Mann 'Guru Dokhi' (anti-Guru) and 'Khalsa Panth virodhi' (anti-Khalsa Panth) over an alleged objectionable video on Monday.

The Shiromani Akali Dal chief directed the Sikh community "not to associate with him" as Mann was accused of lying about a purported objectionable video that hurt Sikh sentiments.

# Rs 84k cr to Rs 1.78L cr in 5 years: India's defence production booms

## Output doubles as private sector expands role and exports surge

**KALYAN RAY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's annual defence production has more than doubled in the last five years, reaching an all-time high of Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY26, the Defence Ministry said here on Wednesday.

The milestone marks more than 15% growth over the previous fiscal's output of Rs 1.54 lakh crore and an impressive 110% jump since FY2020-21, when the corresponding figure was Rs 84,643 crore. Indigenous defence production has increased almost fourfold from Rs 43,746 crore in FY2013-14.

The growth comes from enhanced output by defence public sector units and the increasing contribution of the private sector, which currently supplies several critical weapons, systems and components.

"This upward trajectory is a clear indicator of the country's expanding defence industrial base. With sustained policy support, several new initiatives, increased private sector participation, and growing export capabilities, the defence production sector is poised for continued acceleration in the years ahead," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in a social media post.

Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other PSUs accounted for nearly 77% of total production, while the private sector contributed the rest. The private sector's share in overall defence production rose from 21% in 2023-24 to 23% in 2024-25, reflecting the sector's growth.

A rising defence budget, increased defence exports, an expanding role for the private sector and a higher number of industrial licences are the key factors behind the growth in defence production.

The ministry earlier said India's defence exports reached an all-time high of Rs 38,424 crore in 2025-26, signalling a massive 63% year-on-year jump compared with the Rs 23,622 crore recorded in the previous fiscal year.

Both public and private segments of the industry have demonstrated consistent year-on-year growth, attributed to policy reforms, enhanced ease of doing business and a strategic focus on indigenisation over the past decade, the ministry said.

However, despite enhanced defence production, India remains the world's second-largest importer of arms in 2021-25, with Russia, France and Israel being the top three suppliers, although the extent of imports has dropped marginally compared with the situation five years ago.

The Defence Ministry has a long-term target of achieving annual defence production of Rs 3 lakh crore and exports of Rs 50,000 crore by FY29.

# Nationwide protest against VB-G RAM G on July 1

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Demanding the repeal of the proposed Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission - Gramin (VB-G RAM G), activists and workers' organisations on Wednesday announced protests against the new scheme from July 1.

Addressing a press conference here, members of the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, agricultural workers' unions and labour rights groups claimed that an analysis of the government's own data showed the promised 125 days of employment under the proposed scheme was neither financially backed nor administratively feasible.

The draft rules released by the Centre expose the "shrinking employment guarantee" under the scheme, they alleged, adding that "The draft rules continue the opaque erasure of MGNREGA."

They further alleged that the proposed framework centralises powers with the Centre while reducing the effective employment guarantee available to rural workers.

According to an analysis by the activists, no major state would be able to generate even half of the promised 125 days of employment per active job card in the proposed interim allocations.

"This law destroys the spirit of the Rural Employment Guarantee Act... There is already a downward trend in employment generated," activist Nikhil Dey said.

# Kerala's Congress govt makes U-turn on PM-SHRI scheme

**ARJUN RAGHUNATH**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The newly sworn-in Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala has decided to go ahead with the widely criticised decision of the previous CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government to sign an agreement with the Centre for implementing the PM-SHRI scheme in state schools.

Even as Chief Minister VD Satheesan justified the decision by blaming the previous LDF government for having signed the agreement and accepted the first instalment of funds, the huge central assistance linked to the scheme appears to have been a key factor behind the cash-strapped state's decision to proceed with it.

While Satheesan maintained that the state would not surrender its authority to decide the curriculum followed in government schools while implementing PM-SHRI, a reply given by the Centre in Parliament in February stated that schools under the scheme would be required to showcase all initiatives under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Opposition parties had opposed PM-SHRI, alleging that it was part of the BJP's agenda to introduce Sangh Parivar ideologies into the education sector through the NEP.

"Kerala, along with other non-BJP-ruled states, will jointly take steps to protect states' rights and interests in education. A Cabinet subcommittee headed by General Education Minister N Samsudheen will take further steps in this regard," Satheesan said.

Kerala witnessed a major controversy last year after the LDF government decided to sign the agreement with the Centre for implementing PM-SHRI without any discussion even within the ruling front.

Satheesan, then the Leader of the Opposition, had strongly opposed the move and alleged that there were hidden agendas behind the agreement.

# Alarm as another man killed by lions in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district

**AHMEDABAD, DHNS:** A day after a migrant worker was killed in a lion attack in Gujarat's Amreli, a similar incident was reported in neighbouring Bhavnagar district, sending shockwaves across the region.

The body of a 34-year-old villager was discovered in shrubs, with only the head intact. Officials suspect Asiatic lions had eaten the remaining body parts.

Forest officials said the severed body of Nagjibhai Premjibhai Gujariya, a resident of Gadhada village in Mahua taluka of Bhavnagar district, was found on Wednesday morning near the road leading to the locally popular Pingaleshwar Mahadev temple.

According to locals, Gujariya, a daily wager, did not return home on Tuesday night after finishing work.

It is suspected he was attacked on his way back. During a search by residents and forest officials, his clothes and remains were found in a shrub.

The area falls under the Mahua Wildlife Range of the Shetrunji Division. Deputy Conservator of Forests (DFO) Chirag Amin told *DH* the incident was suspected to be a lion attack, adding that an investigation was underway to determine exactly what happened.

Earlier on Tuesday, the body of Prakash Chandra, a native of Uttarakhand, was found in a similar condition near Kovaya village in Rajula taluka of Amreli district. He was working as a cook in a restaurant.

### 'Alarming, tragic'

The incident sent shockwaves across the region, with graphic videos from the attack scene circulating widely on social media.

Wildlife activists and conservationists described the attacks as both alarming and tragic.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie

I BOY, IT WAS SO WORTH IT TO STAY UP AND WATCH THIS SCARY MOVIE!
ALTHOUGH AFTER WATCHING IT, I'M NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP FOR A WHILE
I THINK BEING AWAKE FOR TOO LONG IS SCARIER THAN ANY MOVIE TO HIM!
SKNXX-X
3-10

### Hagar The Horrible

### Beetle Bailey

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WEREN'T AN ARMY COOK?
I'D BE A PERSONAL CHEF
YOU MIGHT WANT TO WORK ON THE "PERSONAL" PART
GREG + MORT WALKER
2/24

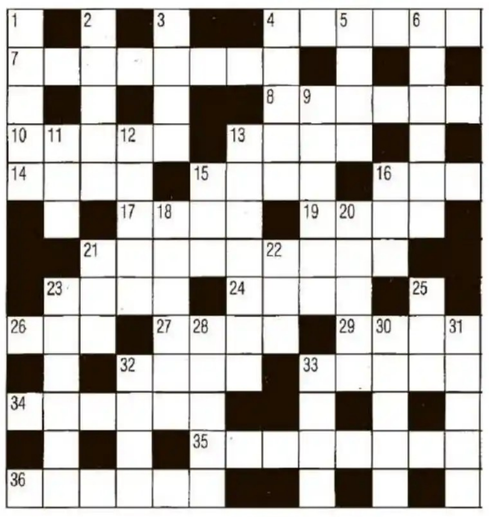
### Peanuts

I FILLED OUT AN APPLICATION FOR A LIBRARY CARD, MARCIE
ONE THING FOR SURE; WHEN I GET MY OWN LIBRARY CARD, I'LL NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!
KARL MALDEN WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR IT, SIR
WHAT?
NOTHING, SIR

### Marvin

I HEARD MARVIN BROKE YOUR VASE
YEAH...
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS SINCE NOBODY'S GIVEN ME ANY FLOWERS TO PUT IN IT RECENTLY
WAIT, HOW DID THIS GET TURNED AROUND ON ME?!

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12441



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
4 It's eaten by many, if fun is also wanted (6)
7 Somewhat kinky name for the honey bear (8)
8 Vehicle going south to somewhere on sea, possibly (6)
10 It's weak, but we all have it (5)
13 Possibly Cuban cad? (4)
14 Tower of strength! (4)
15 Think about me as shielding us (4)
16 Fingerprint expert (3)
17 The last word in devotion? (4)
19 Stale rhyme to make you cry! (4)
21 Bird providing the rations on manoeuvres, etc? (9)
23 Foreign noisy tavern (4)
24 Being light, permitting you to raise them? (4)
26 In short, is he the greatest? (3)
27 Set up for driving (4)
29 Does it mean 'you'll get no change out of me'? (4)
32 There isn't really a herring one (4)
33 Shoot for a bargain, sweetheart! (5)
34 The right decor possibly the best ever! (6)
35 Person one is no longer burning for (3,5)
36 Avoid certain ways to masticate (6)

**DOWN**
1 One of a pair, very noisy, in a little boat (5)
2 Rare way of being done? (5)
3 For which the water was hot? (4)
4 Females in numerous employments (5)
5 Think to charge a quid (4)
6 Where to be the ultimate defender of clean sheets (2,4)
9 Scope for marginal latitude (6)
11 Biblical character in the French department (3)
12 Thanks to participating in crime, a bad mark (5)
13 Like an aged person with a round figure? (7)
15 Amelia's boy? (3)
16 The German in the audience (3)
18 In endless torment, he contrives to give advice (6)
20 The crime of a hard-hearted lad (5)
21 Mend with difficulty (3)
22 As a whim a fatheaded advert (3)
23 The problems of confrontation (6)
25 Intrepid little company? (3)
28 Give some women dowries (5)
30 Whence it's a very short distance to the heart of the land? (5)
31 Not neutral on all occasions (5)
32 It's very nice to shop around (4)
33 At Ponders End, frequently, it's maybe muddy (4)

**ACROSS**
4 Broad street (6)
7 A cosmetic (8)
8 Tarantula, for example (6)
10 Of or resembling a bird (5)
13 Plant part (4)
14 Minus (4)
15 Female relative (4)
16 Still (3)
17 Mountain lake (4)
19 Middle East port (4)
21 Sets free (9)
23 Indian dress (4)
24 Press clothes (4)
26 Marry (3)
27 Terrible fate (4)
29 Plant type (4)
32 Defeat (4)
33 Facial expression (5)
34 Strain, emphasis (6)
35 Liable to happen soon (8)
36 Fears greatly (6)

**DOWN**
1 Iron, for example (5)
2 Boy's name (5)
3 Big cat (4)
4 Illegal burning (5)
5 Egress (4)
6 Irregular (6)
9 Spud (6)
11 Animal doctor (3)
12 Afoot (5)
13 Behave without restraint (3,4)
15 Land measure (3)
16 Affirmative (3)
18 Tolerates (6)
20 Jeans fabric (5)
21 Stripling (3)
22 Limb (3)
23 Part, subdivision (6)
25 Nothing (3)
28 Desert's fertile spot (5)
30 Jockey (5)
31 Chairs (5)
32 2nd Greek letter (4)
33 Go by boat (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12440**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 1, Castor 7, Occasion 8, Ha-ha 10, Reason 11, F-AC-ile 14, Let 16, Bree-d 17, Tell 19, T-all-y 21, R-o.g.-ue 22, Tim-I'd 23, Sped 26, Strip 28, Bea 29, Thu-MP-s 30, Jo-Vi-Al 31, A-bel 32, Remind- ed 33, Ex-eter.
**DOWN:** 1, Carrot 2, Teasel 3, R-O-an 4, Eatable 5, Pi-XI-e 6, Unwed 8, Hall 9, Hot 12, Cr-y 13, Le-Ave. 15, Fagin 18, Earth 19, To- M 20, Lud 21, Ripping 22, Tim 23, S-ever-e 24, Pail 25, Do-LL-ar 26, Stern 27, Rum-my 28, Bob 30, Ja-de.

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 1, Critic 7, Hour hand 8, Cure 10, Narrow 11, Fibula 14, Out 16, Tales 17, Cops 19, Depot 21, Lager 22, Sedan 23, Doll 26, Merit 28, Sid 29, Adapts 30, Vision 31, Icon 32, Delicate 33, Singer.
**DOWN:** 1, Clinic 2, Taurus 3, Chew 4, Traitor 5, Kabul 6, Ideas 8, Crop 9, Rot 12, Bat 13, Legal 15, Regal 18, Oiled 19, Dad 20, Pen 21, Lettuce 22, Sip 23, Disown 24, Odin 25, Linger 26, Maids 27, Rally 28, Sic 30, Vies.

## ◆ SU-DO-KU-6935 ◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | | 1 | 7 | 4 | | |
| | | | 6 | | | 9 | 5 | |
| 7 | 5 | | | 2 | | | | |
| | 1 | 5 | | | | 2 | | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | 9 | | | | 8 | 4 | |
| | | | | 6 | | | 2 | 9 |
| | 2 | 1 | | | 5 | | | |
| | | 4 | 2 | 8 | | | | 1 |

hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 |

**SOLUTION TO 6934**

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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A1 R1 H4 A1 E1 F4 T1 — 4th Letter Triple
R1 N1 C3 A1 I1 I1 G2
D2 R1 I1 E1 V4 O1 D2 — Double Word Score
T1 I1 I1 T1 B3 S1 D2

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 105-115
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

P3 R1 O1 V4 O1 S1 T1 — RACK 1 = 66
B3 I1 T1 E1 R1 — RACK 2 = 7
A1 N1 T1 E1 N1 N1 A1 — RACK 3 = 64
S1 A1 G2 U1 A1 R1 O1 — RACK 4 = 74
PAR SCORE 135-145 — JUDD'S TOTAL 211

## JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YSEZT
AMHNU
DESPEY
LNJEIG

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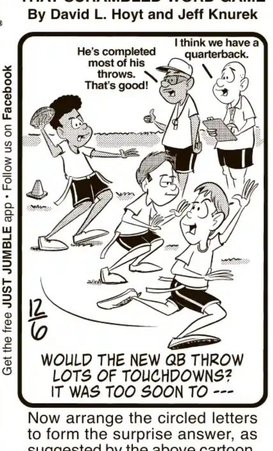
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek


He's completed most of his throws. That's good!
I think we have a quarterback.
12/6
WOULD THE NEW QB THROW LOTS OF TOUCHDOWNS? IT WAS TOO SOON TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OUTDO COURT FENNEL ZEALOT
Answer: They thought the telemarketer's approach to selling was — UNCALLED-FOR

## HITORI-3389

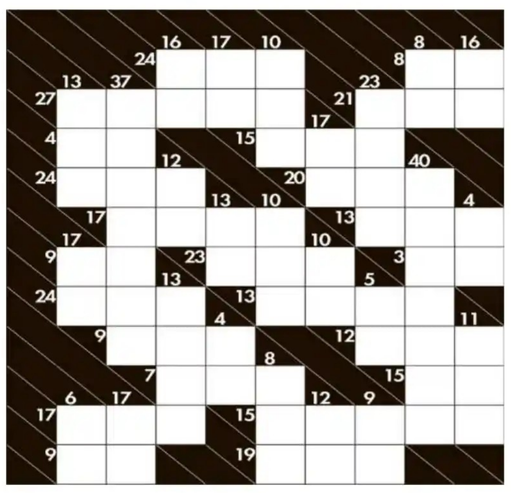
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 |

**SOLUTION TO 3388**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | ■ | 8 |
| 5 | ■ | 4 | ■ | 2 | ■ | 3 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | ■ | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| ■ | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | ■ | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | ■ | 4 | 1 | ■ | 8 | ■ |
| 4 | ■ | 1 | 5 | ■ | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | ■ | 4 |
| 1 | ■ | 5 | 6 | ■ | 2 | 4 | ■ |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3389



**SOLUTION TO 3388**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3950

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | | | | | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | | 8 | | 9 | | ■ | |
| | | ■ | | | | ■ | | |
| | 1 | 9 | ■ | | 3 | | | |
| | | | | ■ | 1 | | | |
| | | | ■ | | ■ | 3 | 4 | |
| 7 | | ■ | 6 | | | 1 | 2 | |
| | ■ | | | | | 7 | ■ | 5 |
| ■ | | | | | 8 | 9 | | ■ |

**SOLUTION TO 3949**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

# Trump goes after Netanyahu as he pursues nuclear deal with Iran

## US President says Israeli leader needs softer touch on Lebanon

WASHINGTON/EVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE), REUTERS

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could use a "softer touch" in Lebanon, highlighting growing tensions between the two leaders as Washington moves towards an accord with Iran aimed at ending the war in West Asia.

Trump, speaking at the close of the G7 summit in France, said he had urged Netanyahu to show greater restraint in dealing with Iran-backed Hezbollah. "Netanyahu happens to be a good man, gets a little excited sometimes," Trump told reporters. "We have a little dispute over Lebanon. I say you can do a little softer touch, Bibi. You don't have to knock down a building every time somebody walks into it that's from Hezbollah."

Trump also said Washington had shared details of its accord with Iran with Israel, stating that the US "did send a copy" of the agreement despite reports of friction between the two allies.

Insisting that he maintains a good relationship with Netanyahu, Trump reiterated his criticism of Israel's military campaign in Lebanon, saying Israel "could do a much better job". The remarks mark one of Trump's strongest public rebukes of Netanyahu as the US president seeks to finalise an agreement with Tehran. The accord is scheduled to be signed on Friday at the Burgenstock resort near Luzern, Switzerland.

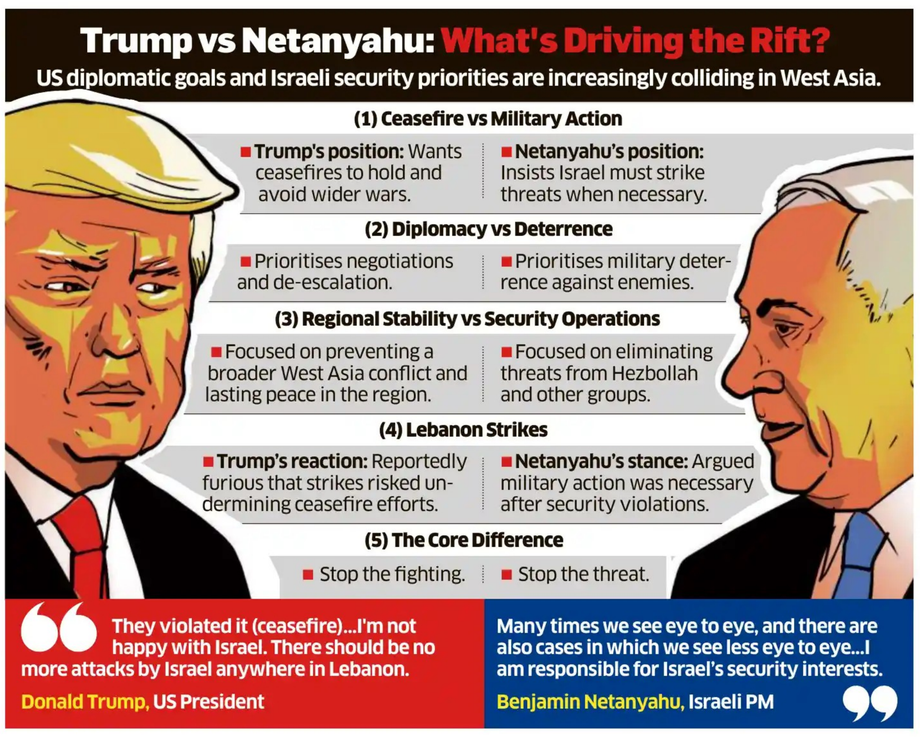
Trump has recently criticised Israeli attacks in Lebanon, arguing that they risk undermining negotiations between Washington and Tehran. He has also faced domestic political pressure as the conflict remains unpopular among many Americans and has contributed to higher petrol prices.

"Without the US, there would be no Israel. Without me, there would be no Israel because no other president was willing to do what I did," Trump said. "I have had a great relationship with Bibi. Now Bibi has to be more responsible with respect to Lebanon."

Israeli officials have not publicly responded to Trump's latest comments.

Netanyahu, who has served during the administrations of four US presidents, has frequently had disagreements with leaders in Washington. However, analysts note that few American presidents have criticised him as openly as Trump. "If Netanyahu gets in between something Trump really wants, and that's out of this war, he's prepared to use the leverage that he has," said Aaron David Miller, a former adviser on West Asia issues to Democratic and Republican administrations.

The comments have drawn mixed reactions in the US. Halie Soifer, head of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, criticised Trump's suggestion that Israel's existence depended on his support, calling it "deeply offensive".


Trump vs Netanyahu: What's Driving the Rift?
US diplomatic goals and Israeli security priorities are increasingly colliding in West Asia.
(1) Ceasefire vs Military Action
Trump's position: Wants ceasefires to hold and avoid wider wars.
Netanyahu's position: Insists Israel must strike threats when necessary.
(2) Diplomacy vs Deterrence
Prioritises negotiations and de-escalation.
Prioritises military deterrence against enemies.
(3) Regional Stability vs Security Operations
Focused on preventing a broader West Asia conflict and lasting peace in the region.
Focused on eliminating threats from Hezbollah and other groups.
(4) Lebanon Strikes
Trump's reaction: Reportedly furious that strikes risked undermining ceasefire efforts.
Netanyahu's stance: Argued military action was necessary after security violations.
(5) The Core Difference
Stop the fighting.
Stop the threat.
They violated it (ceasefire)...I'm not happy with Israel. There should be no more attacks by Israel anywhere in Lebanon.
Donald Trump, US President
Many times we see eye to eye, and there are also cases in which we see less eye to eye...I am responsible for Israel's security interests.
Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli PM

## MoU outlines ceasefire, $300 bn plan for Iran

WASHINGTON, AFP

A memorandum of understanding released by the United States on Wednesday outlines a broad framework for ending the war with Iran, including an immediate ceasefire, eventual sanctions relief, negotiations on Tehran's nuclear programme and a USD 300 billion reconstruction package.

The text, read to reporters by a senior US official, commits the United States and Iran to an "immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon", while pledging not to initiate future military action against each other. "The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran and their allies in the current war... declare an immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts," the memorandum states.

The document says the two sides will seek to negotiate a final agreement within 60 days, with the possibility of an extension by mutual consent.

Under the memorandum, Washington would begin lifting its naval blockade of Iran immediately upon signing and complete the process within 30 days. The United States would also remove its forces from the vicinity of Iran within 30 days of a final agreement.

Iran, meanwhile, would facilitate the safe passage of commercial vessels through the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. The memorandum also calls for discussions involving Oman and other Gulf states on the future administration and maritime services of the Strait of Hormuz.

A major provision of the framework commits the United States, together with regional partners, to develop a reconstruction and economic development plan worth at least USD 300 billion for Iran.

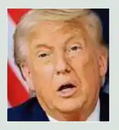
"The United States of America undertakes with regional partners to develop a definitive mutually agreed plan with at least USD 300 billion for the reconstruction and economic development of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the text says.

The memorandum further commits Washington to ending sanctions on Iran under a timetable to be agreed as part of a final settlement. "The United States of America undertakes to terminate all types of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran," it states, including unilateral US sanctions as well as measures linked to the UN Security Council and the IAEA.

On the nuclear issue, Iran reaffirms that it "shall not procure or develop nuclear weapons".

The two sides agreed to negotiate the future disposition of Iran's stockpiles of enriched nuclear material, with the memorandum saying the minimum approach would involve "down-blending on site under the supervision of the IAEA".

**DONALD TRUMP**
US President



"It's a memorandum of understanding. And if I don't like it, we'll go back to shooting at them, dropping bombs on their head. If I don't like it, if they don't behave, we'll go right back to dropping bombs right smack in the middle of their head, OK?"

## Lebanon at 'pivotal' moment after US-Iran deal: Hezbollah

**BEIRUT, AFP:** Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem on Wednesday urged Lebanese authorities to take advantage of a "pivotal" moment following a US-Iran deal to end the West Asia war, ahead of Israeli-Lebanese negotiations next week.

American and Iranian officials, as well as mediator Pakistan, have said the deal includes Lebanon, where Israel and Hezbollah have been at war since March 2.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, however, insisted his country's negotiations with Israel in Washington were independent of the regional deal. In a televised address, Qassem hailed the deal as a "great victory" for Iran, thanking his group's backer for "linking the Lebanese arena" to the accord and "forcing Israel to stop its aggression" against the country.

While violence has declined in Lebanon following the announcement of the deal, Israeli strikes in the south have killed at least five people since then, according to state media, which also reported Israeli raids on southern Lebanon on Wednesday. Israel's army said five soldiers were wounded on Wednesday, one of them seriously, "as a result of an explosive drone impact in southern Lebanon", the first such announcement since the US-Iran deal. The Israeli military also said its air force intercepted "several rockets" launched towards soldiers operating in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah had not claimed any attacks on Israeli targets as of Wednesday. Qassem urged Lebanon to take advantage of "this pivotal point following the agreement... to achieve the expulsion of Israel" from Lebanese territory.

Israeli Merkava tanks drive along a road amid destroyed buildings in southern Lebanon on Wednesday. AFP

## G7 leaders demand ceasefire in Lebanon

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, FRANCE/ DUBAI, REUTERS

Leaders of the G7 countries demanded a ceasefire in Lebanon on Wednesday and said they will diversify energy supply routes to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz in response to the war in Iran, as they welcomed an interim deal to end the conflict.

The leaders met for a summit in the French town of Evian-les-Bains on Lake Geneva, while details of the US-Iran ceasefire agreement trickled out of Washington and Tehran ahead of its formal unveiling.

The US-Iran agreement is expected to launch negotiations towards a final settlement to end the war, which has killed over 7,000 people, mostly in Iran and Lebanon. "We underline the need for the negotiation ... to address the threats posed by Iran in the region and beyond and ensure that they never obtain a nuclear weapon," the leaders said.

The summit gave US President Donald Trump a chance to present his deal with Iran to major allies Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. They mostly share Washington's concerns about Iran's nuclear programme and other issues, but never endorsed his decision to go to war and worry that Tehran gained leverage by withstanding the superpower onslaught and asserting control over the strait. The leaders said they were ready to contribute to the implementation of the accord, with a coalition led by Britain and France set to help secure shipping once the Strait of Hormuz reopens as expected on Friday.

## UK restaurant calls for India's intervention against eviction

**LONDON, PTI:** Veeraswamy, one of the world's oldest Indian restaurants, has appealed to the Indian government to intervene against its forced removal from its iconic London location, which once welcomed Mahatma Gandhi.

The Michelin-starred restaurant, which recently celebrated 100 years since it first opened its doors at Victory House on Regent Street in March 1926, is set for a legal battle over its lease at the end of the month.

The building's landlord, the Crown Estate, has maintained that "comprehensive refurbishment" requirements mean it is unable to renew the historic restaurant's lease.

"Even at this late stage, we would urge the government of India to consider intervening on behalf of Indian cuisine – the country's soft power in the UK," said Ranjit Mathrani of MW Eat, the group that owns Veeraswamy.

He pointed out that, given the strength of the India-UK bilateral relationship and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) approaching implementation, it would be disappointing to see a slice of Indian history disappearing from the very heart of London.

## Don't hand AI oversight to tech giants: OpenAI chief

### Altman urges governments to set artificial intelligence rules

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, AP/PTI

OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman urged world leaders at the G7 summit on Wednesday not to surrender control over artificial intelligence to the companies building it, calling on governments to set global standards for deploying the rapidly advancing technology.

"Do not cede your responsibilities to AI labs like mine," Altman told leaders and technology executives during a summit session in the French Alpine resort of Evian-les-Bains, according to excerpts of his remarks released by the company.

The appeal from the head of one of the world's most valuable AI firms effectively asked democratic governments to keep the most consequential decisions about the technology out of corporate hands—including his own.

"We develop the technology, and the citizens of the free world make the rules," Altman said. "Technologists have special knowledge about AI, but they don't have any special wisdom about humanity."

Altman told leaders that the question of whether AI is useful "has been settled" and that, within a year or two, he expects systems of "astonishing power" capable of reshaping human life on a scale unmatched "since the harnessing of electricity". His remarks came at a time when the US and Europe disagree over how tightly AI should be regulated.

(From L) OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, US President Donald Trump and Google DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis at the G7 Summit in Evian-les-Bains on Wednesday. REUTERS

### Expects progress on access to Anthropic's Mythos: France

**French President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday he believed progress would be made in coming weeks on broadening access to leading American AI models, as G7 leaders pledged closer coordination on the risks and opportunities of frontier AI, Reuters reports. Macron's comments came as G7 leaders discussed the creation of a "trusted partners" scheme granting access for non-US nations to advanced US AI models from firms like Anthropic.**

## Nvidia's Huang says 'new social norms' needed in the age of AI

SHERMAN (US), AP/PTI

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang — whose work helped enable artificial intelligence — stressed that society has no choice but to change with the advent of AI.

Huang has been optimistic about the technology's potential to rapidly transform society, creating faster economic growth and more scientific breakthroughs.

But as the head of a computer chip company now developing AI systems, Huang has felt obligated to respond to critics who warn of job losses and threats to humanity itself. "We need to create new social norms," Huang said in an Associated Press interview on Tuesday. "I would advocate that everybody use AI. Just go engage it."

He said the ability of AI to build a website, analyse complex documents, guide advanced research or even plan a kitchen remodelling project has helped close the technological divide in the US. People can now do advanced work on computers without having to know how to programme or write software, he added.

Huang stressed the need for government regulation and safety standards for AI, emphasising that national security must also be a priority for the technology that has been powering stock market gains and much of the US economy in recent years.

The head of the world's most valuable company said society will adapt to AI just as it did to automobiles. He said cars were once portrayed as killing children, but the world changed its norms by creating sidewalks and pedestrian crossings and stopping children from playing in the streets.

"When I was growing up, I used to play in the streets," Huang said. "When cars came along, you obviously can't play in the streets now."

With a market capitalisation of roughly USD 5 trillion, Nvidia has soared in valuation in recent years to become the world's most valuable company. AI modelling companies OpenAI and Anthropic are also potentially set to clear the USD 1 trillion mark once their shares are publicly traded.

That explosive surge in wealth concentrated in AI companies has prompted renewed concerns about economic inequality.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Leo XIV gestures as he arrives for the weekly general audience in St Peter's Square at the Vatican, on Wednesday. REUTERS

### Pakistan extends airspace ban on Indian aircraft by a month

Pakistan on Wednesday extended its airspace restrictions on Indian-registered aircraft for another month, until July 24, PTI reports from Lahore.

The restrictions were first imposed in April 2025, a day after terrorists killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, leading to a standoff between the two nuclear-powered countries that culminated in a four-day military conflict.

India has also imposed similar restrictions on Pakistani aircraft using its airspace. "The ban on Indian aircraft — both civil and military — will remain in effect from 5.50 pm on June 16 until 4.59 am on July 24," the Pakistan Airports Authority said in a notice issued on Wednesday. While military tensions have eased between the two countries, diplomatic relations remain strained, with both sides continuing retaliatory measures introduced during the crisis. The prolonged airspace closure is expected to increase operational costs for Indian airlines, many of which have been forced to take longer routes to destinations in Central Asia, Europe, West Asia and North America.

### Rajapaksa's son arrested

Sri Lanka's former president Mahinda Rajapaksa's son, Yoshitha Rajapaksa, was arrested by the country's anti-graft commission on Wednesday on corruption charges, PTI reports from Colombo.

Yoshitha arrived at the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) in response to a summons issued by the commission to appear before investigators regarding the matter. Yoshitha is the second of Mahinda Rajapaksa's three sons. CIABOC outlined the reasons behind the arrest of the former Sri Lanka Navy officer, saying the case relates to alleged irregularities in his recruitment and training process.

A man in a bear costume takes part in an emergency response drill simulating a bear intrusion in Yaita, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, on Wednesday. REUTERS

### Sikh couple shot dead in Pak

A Sikh caretaker couple was shot dead inside a gurdwara in Pakistan's north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday, PTI reports from Peshawar.

The incident occurred in the Babu Mohallah locality of Mardan, about 60 km north-west of Peshawar. According to Mardan District Police Officer Masood Ahmed, unidentified assailants opened fire inside the gurdwara, resulting in the deaths of Jagannath and his wife, Asma Wanti.

Police said efforts were under way to ascertain the motive behind the attack and apprehend those involved.

### South African cops, migrants clash

Police fired rubber bullets and used stun grenades against migrants protesting on Wednesday near a community hall in South Africa where thousands are being processed for deportation by authorities, AP/PTI reports from Johannesburg.

The clashes came as tensions over immigration surged in Africa's richest country following a series of anti-migrant marches and reports of attacks on some foreign nationals. The migrants who gathered near the hall in the eastern city of Durban are mainly Malawians who initially turned up there more than a week ago to be voluntarily repatriated to their home country on buses provided by their government, authorities said. The premier of KwaZulu-Natal Province, where Durban is located, has said nearly 10,000 Malawians have been camping in a park near the hall while waiting to go home.

Actress Zendaya poses during a photocall for "Spider-Man: brand new day" movie at Museum H'Art, in Amsterdam on Wednesday. AFP

## Biz Bytes

### Rupee up 10 paise against $

**MUMBAI, PTI:** The rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 94.50 against the US dollar, as Brent crude oil prices and the US dollar index retreated further from their elevated levels.

Forex traders said the rupee opened on a positive note as Brent crude has fallen below $79 per barrel, with markets pricing in the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz following the US-Iran peace framework. Moreover, positive domestic equities supported investor sentiments.

### Govt sells 5% in GIC via OFS

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** The government on Wednesday said it has sold a 5% stake in the public sector reinsurance company, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), with an enthusiastic response from investors to the offer for sale.

The stake sale is expected to garner about Rs 3,000 crore to the exchequer, taking the total proceeds from five PSU disinvestments so far in the current fiscal to around Rs 16,000 crore. The OFS opened for retail investors on Wednesday.

### Puravankara buys land near airport

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Realty firm Puravankara Ltd has bought 10 acre land in Bengaluru to develop a housing project with a revenue potential of Rs 800 crore.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, the company informed that it has acquired a 9.73 acre land parcel at Sanna Ammanikere in North Bengaluru.

Puravankara Ltd did not disclose the acquisition cost as well as the name of the seller.

The outright acquisition has a development potential of around 0.89 million sq ft, with an estimated revenue of Rs 800 crore.

### Tata Trusts commits grant to IIMB

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** IIM Bangalore on Wednesday announced a grant from Tata Trusts to support the development of its undergraduate campus in Bengaluru. The funding will support the institute's academic plans, campus infrastructure and research activities.

The School of Undergraduate Studies, located around 27 km from IIMB's main campus, will start classes in August with two four-year residential programmes: BSc (Honours) in Economics with a minor in Data Science.

### BMW rolls out MINI Countryman C

**CHENNAI, PTI:** BMW Group India on Wednesday announced the launch of its locally assembled, petrol-powered premium SUV, the MINI Countryman C, priced at Rs 47.50 lakh (ex-showroom).

Speaking at the launch here, Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO of BMW Group India, said that local assembly has allowed the company to offer a highly competitive value proposition to urban luxury customers.

# Bengaluru is second largest AI cluster in Asia

## The report highlights growing prominence in AI

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru has been ranked 15th among the top 40 global startup ecosystems, and also has the fourth-highest ecosystem value in Asia at $152.8 billion, according to the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026.

Bengaluru is also second in Asia when it comes to AI-native clusters.

Released on Wednesday, the GSER 2026 report offers a globally benchmarked assessment of startup ecosystems across over 350 innovation hubs worldwide. Thirty ecosystems are ranked for Asia, Europe and North America.

Six ecosystems- Bengaluru-Karnataka, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune, and Hyderabad are represented in GSER 2026, and two Indian ecosystems- Bengaluru (No 15) and Delhi (No 31) are ranked among the top 40.

Every ecosystem is evaluated across a set of factors, including funding activity, talent access and startup performance. The cities/regions are ranked according to the degree to which an ecosystem encourages AI startups.

"In AI, we are second in Asia, and it shows that we are heading in the right direction. We have the right combination of elements required to promote AI and support startups that are based on artificial intelligence," Dr N Manjula, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, BT and Science and Technology, told *DH*.

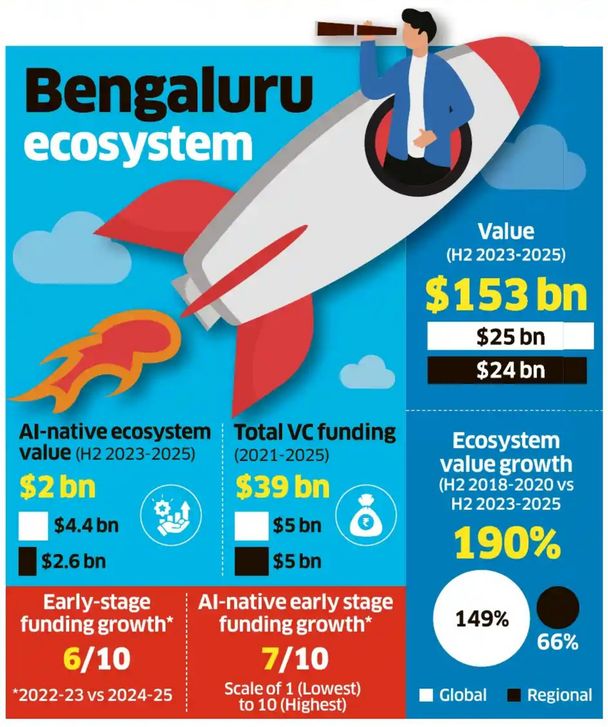
Recently, the government started three centres of excellence in Karnataka, including Bengaluru. "We are building on talent, building on the ecosystem through the centres of excellence, through policy support and also to some extent infrastructure support," she said.

She also said the State stands among the world's leading entrepreneurial ecosystems, redefining global innovation through leadership in AI, quantum, spacetech, global capability centres (GCCs), advanced manufacturing, deeptech and startups, fostering transformative, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

In January this year, the Karnataka government approved the Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions (CATS) with a $2.4 million investment, partnering with Nasscom to boost AI, robotics, automation, and digital transformation.

Bengaluru attracts 58% of the country's AI startup funding, with about $1.5 billion raised since 2020, of which over $1.2 billion has flowed into application-layer AI startups. Asia represents about $2 trillion in ecosystem value, making it the world's second-largest region by startup ecosystem value. According to the report, the region is home to 8 ecosystems in the top 40 global ecosystems: Beijing, Singapore, Seoul, Shanghai, Tokyo, Bengaluru-Karnataka, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

With $46 billion, Bengaluru-Karnataka outpaces others in startup exit value, and also has 30 active unicorns, compared to the global average of 11. Bengaluru-headquartered startups have raised a total of about $79 billion in VC funding since 2010. The state has also captured about 46% of all VC investments into Indian startups.




## SIP openings on Mudrex grew over 220% in 2025

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Crypto investors are now planning long-term as they are putting money in, regardless of where the market is headed, Mudrex Founder and CEO Edul Patel said. The crypto trading and investment platform Mudrex found that its SIP openings grew over 220% in 2025, and that the average monthly contributions climbed to Rs 4,000–Rs 6,000 by December.

Mudrex, in its survey of over 6,000 active Indian crypto traders and investors, found that nine in 10 avoid panic trading during sharp market movements, challenging the long-held perception that retail crypto participation in India is driven by speculation and impulse.

The How India Trades Crypto 2026 report highlighted that Maharashtra, Telangana and TN are the most disciplined crypto traders. In Maharashtra (3.2%), Telangana (3.2%), and Tamil Nadu (4%), only 3-4% of crypto traders reported reactive behaviour during sharp price moves, less than half the national figure, with just 1 in 29 traders describing their response as panic-driven.

Investors aged 35-44 show the highest conviction in crypto, with 45.2% identifying as long-term holders. The report also said that 46.4% of women crypto investors identify as long-term holders, six percentage points more than men.

India is already the world's largest crypto market by user count, with about 120 million active participants, according to Chainalysis.

"India's crypto investors have already done the hard work of building sound habits. What the market now needs is the policy clarity and institutional infrastructure to match that maturity. The frameworks around this asset class need to catch up with the investors who are already in it," Patel said.

Founded in 2018, Mudrex is backed by Y Combinator, Nexus Venture Partners, Village Global, and Arkham Ventures.

About 41.2% of respondents identified themselves as long-term buy-and-hold investors, the single largest cohort in the survey, ahead of short-term traders at 25.8%.

In West Bengal (60%), Rajasthan (52%), Karnataka (51%), and Bihar (48%), buy-and-hold rates range from 48% to 60%, above the national figure of 41.2%, the report mentioned.

## India-EU FTA by 2026 says top European Union leader

FRANCE, PTI

India and the European Union will sign the free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of this year, top EU leader Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday after holding talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that largely focused on boosting two-way economic engagement against the backdrop of a fragile geopolitical environment.

In the meeting, held on the sidelines of the G7 summit in this French commune, the two sides also resolved to step up security and defence cooperation. Besides Von der Leyen, the President of the EU Commission, the meeting was joined by European Council President Antonio Costa.

The leaders stressed the expeditious signing and implementation of the trade deal as it would unlock huge opportunities for trade and investment and contribute towards diversification of supply chains, particularly in the current turbulent geopolitical context, according to an Indian readout.

India and the EU announced the conclusion of the negotiations for the FTA, billed as the "mother of all deals", following the summit meeting between PM Modi and the top EU leadership on January 27.

The FTA that will account for almost a quarter of the global GDP will reduce tariffs on 99% of Indian exports to the EU and cut duties on over 97% of the EU's exports to India, according to officials.

The EU estimated that the deal will cut up to four billion euros in annual tariffs for European exporters.

"Since we have concluded the mother of all trade deals, we have been moving fast to deliver on our commitments. We will sign the FTA by the end of the year and accelerate work on an investment agreement," Von der Leyen said on social media.

"We will also step up security & defence cooperation and join forces for better connectivity by advancing the India–Middle East–Europe Corridor," she said. Costa also made an identical social media post.

India and the EU announced concluding negotiations for the mega trade deal at their summit meeting in January in New Delhi.

The prime minister said he and the EU leaders discussed how to further deepen economic linkages.

"During our talks, we discussed how to further deepen economic linkages in the times to come. Our growing cooperation can play an important role in strengthening peace, stability and prosperity in today's global environment," the prime minister added.

The Ministry of External Affairs said PM Modi and EU leaders recalled the landmark 16th India-EU summit of January and welcomed the "remarkable progress" made in the bilateral relations since then.

## Manipal Hospitals plans $1 billion IPO in July

BLOOMBERG

Manipal Health Enterprises Pvt., which runs the Manipal Hospitals chain, is likely to launch its initial public offering as early as next month, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Temasek Holdings Pte.-backed company has completed investor meetings and is targeting a valuation of about $10 billion, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private. Deliberations are ongoing and details of the offering, including its size and timing, could still change, the people said. A representative for Manipal Hospitals didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Manipal's planned offering could be India's first billion-dollar IPO of the year. A successful listing may also help build momentum after a slow start to equity capital markets, coming off two record-setting years. Companies in India have raised about $3.6 billion through first-time share sales so far in 2026.

Manipal Hospitals filed its draft prospectus with India's market regulator in March. The proposed share sale includes a secondary offering of as many as 43.23 million shares, or about a 3.66% stake, by existing investors, as well as a fresh issue of shares worth about Rs 8,000 crore.

The company is working with advisers including Kotak Mahindra Capital, Axis Capital Ltd., and the local units of Goldman Sachs Group, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Jefferies Financial Group, UBS Securities and DBS Bank Ltd. on the potential listing.

## TCS wins multi-year deal to transform Elopak's IT ops

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced a multi-year partnership with Elopak, a global supplier of paper-based packaging solutions, which is operating in over 40 countries and serving customers in more than 70 markets.

Under this partnership, TCS will be Elopak's strategic IT partner, leading the transformation and management of its global IT through a process centric operating model. Leveraging its AI-first approach, TCS will deploy advanced analytics and automation capabilities, including its proprietary Cognix – an AI-powered, future-ready service delivery suite of solutions built on its Machine First philosophy.

Merethe Johansen, CIO at Elopak, said, "Our partnership with TCS represents a significant step in advancing our digital ambitions and strengthening our global operations. By modernising our IT landscape and leveraging AI-driven capabilities, we aim to improve efficiency, enhance user experience and support our growth objectives."

## Oil price rise to have multi-layer impact: Crisil

### US-Iran deal unlikely to restore FY26 crude levels

**GYANENDRA KESHRI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A sustained energy price will have a multi-layered impact on India's economic growth, with manufacturing and construction being among the most vulnerable sectors, Crisil said on Wednesday.

According to the rating agency, around 40% of costs in manufacturing, mining and construction are linked to energy and related inputs, making them particularly sensitive to sustained price increases.

The sectors, which are directly hit include land transport, mining, chemicals, and plastics.

"The combination of direct and indirect cost pressures is expected to moderate growth and strain producer margins," Crisil said in note.

According to Crisil, India's GDP growth is likely to slow to 6.6% in the current financial year from 7.7% in the previous year. It noted that the growth could be even lower than 6.6%. "Risks skewed to the downside amid broadening cost pressures across the economy," it said.

Although crude oil prices have eased since the announcement of a memorandum of understanding between the US and Iran on June 15, it remains above $70 per barrel average of fiscal 2026.

Even if the agreement is formalised, S&P Global expects only a gradual recovery of energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, given lingering operational hurdles and potential risk aversion. This could keep some pressure on energy prices in the rest of the fiscal, it said.

Crude and petroleum products account for a significantly higher share of production costs (8.4%) compared with natural gas (1%), making oil price shocks more dominant and broad-based.

On the agriculture sector, it said the challenges are on two key fronts – fertiliser availability and diesel price.

Fertiliser subsidy covers nearly 24% of agriculture's input costs. So far, the government is actively facilitating fertiliser imports and prioritising gas supply for domestic fertiliser production. However, given the surge in the cost of imports and production, fertiliser availability in the upcoming agricultural seasons could see some challenges, it said.

"The sector's dependence on petroleum products (especially diesel) is significantly high at 9% of its input costs. This could add to farmers' costs this fiscal, especially as the expected below-normal monsoon increases the need for the use of machines for irrigation," it added.

Producers are likely to face squeezing margins as it will be difficult to fully pass on such a sharp rise in cost pressures. This, in turn, will impact GDP growth this fiscal, the rating agency noted.

## Airlines' operating profit to drop 10-15% in FY27: Report

**MUMBAI, PTI:** The operating profit of domestic airlines is estimated to decline 10-15% this fiscal due to elevated aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, airspace restrictions and rupee depreciation amid the West Asia conflict, a CRISIL report said on Wednesday.

Rating agency CRISIL also said that the combined impact of higher costs, constrained pricing power and capacity rationalisation is expected to reduce the aggregate operating profit of the airlines to Rs 16,000-17,000 crore this fiscal from around Rs 19,000 crore in the preceding financial year.

Any respite from lower jet fuel prices, driven by a potential resolution of the conflict in West Asia, will contain further escalation in fuel costs for airlines, it said.

However, ongoing fleet expansion will push up lease rentals, and that, coupled with moderating operating profits, could weaken lease serviceability through internal accruals, the report noted, adding that the upshot is expected to be around a 15% increase in rental costs to Rs 27,000-28,000 crore this fiscal.

Jet fuel accounts for nearly 40% of an airline's operating costs under normal circumstances and can go to as much as 60% of total operating expenditure during periods of extreme fuel price volatility.

Such fluctuations can significantly impact airline operations, route planning and fare stability.

The West Asia conflict has led to a sharp average increase of over 50% in global ATF prices versus the pre-conflict levels.

This has significantly increased airlines' operating costs as fuel accounts for 40-50% of the costs, CRISIL said. Although global ATF prices have begun to ease from around $145 per barrel (week ending June 5) to below around $125 currently, they remain significantly above the average of $90 in the preceding fiscal, the report outlined.

The evolving geopolitical situation points to a potential resolution of the conflict, including the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a primary global energy supply route, in the near term, which could further ease fuel prices, the rating agency observed.

However, since the first quarter of this fiscal has borne the brunt of the ATF price surge, overall fuel costs for the full fiscal will remain high.

TALENT BOOM

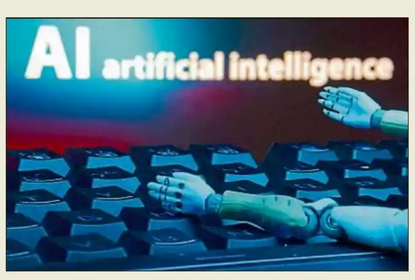
## India has 9.2 lakh AI professionals, says Quess report

BENGALURU, DHNS

With 9,20,000 professionals across core AI and AI embedded talent segments, the country is among the world's largest and fastest growing AI talent ecosystems. Of the total AI workforce, about 28% (2,57,600) is the core AI workforce, making it the second-largest AI talent hub globally, according to Quess Corp's India AI Workforce Analysis 2026.

The workforce intelligence study maps how AI is reshaping the country's enterprise workforce across Global Capability Centres (GCCs), IT services and consulting firms, and enterprises. It said that there are 3,50,000 active AI-related job postings in the last three months and that demand rises sharply for specialised skills such as LangChain, RAG, MLOps, LLMOps, and AI governance as enterprises move from pilots to production-scale AI deployment.

According to the findings, GCCs lead with a 40% Core AI share within their overall AI ecosystem, while IT services account for 27% Core AI and enterprises for 14% Core AI within their respective AI ecosystems. IT services firms are hiring to deliver AI across client programmes. Enterprises are hiring selectively to connect AI to finance, risk, operations, customer experience and employee systems.




Kapil Joshi, CEO, Quess IT Staffing, said, "What stands out in our analysis is the emergence of three distinct engines of AI growth. GCCs are building reusable AI platforms and governance capabilities, IT services are industrialising AI deployment at scale, and Enterprises are embedding AI directly into business workflows and decision-making. Together, they are creating a new talent landscape where execution capability matters more than experimentation."

The findings also indicate that AI has become a horizontal enterprise capability. More than 70% of India's AI workforce now sits outside traditional AI specialist roles, while nearly one-third of all AI demand is emerging from business functions such as operations, customer service, marketing, finance, governance, and workforce management, Joshi added.

Customer operations alone could see 45–60% of workflows augmented by AI, while marketing functions are undergoing one of the fastest AI-led transformations.

The report's workflow-impact modelling shows that AI adoption is being embedded into repetitive, coordination, reporting, service and execution-oriented activities. It also highlights that only a limited share (5%) of senior technology leaders currently carry long-term production AI deployment experience across enterprise-scale platforms, governance, and AI transformation programmes.

# Rooted in local jackfruit heritage

**Naina J A writes about a grafting campaign that reflected the culture of conserving fruit diversity in coastal Karnataka**

On a June morning, an unusual queue formed at a mango and jackfruit mela in Sullia, Dakshina Kannada district. Those waiting carried an unusual item — small twigs cut from jackfruit trees growing in their backyards, plantations or ancestral homesteads.

To an outsider, the twigs, or scions, looked ordinary. To those who carried them, they were priceless.

Some of the twigs had been cut from trees that have stood for decades. They came from cherished family heirlooms known for their distinctive taste, aroma, fruit size or unusual fruiting season. Their owners feared that as the trees aged, these unique local varieties could disappear altogether.

That concern brought them to the mela organised last week by Team Ubar, Sullia Farmers Producer Company Limited, Pranava Souharda Sahakari Sangha and Suddi Krishi Arivu Kendra.

What unfolded over the next three days transformed the festival from a fruit exhibition into a people-driven grassroots conservation effort.

At the centre of the activity was jackfruit grafting expert Anil Kumar of Kabaka in Puttur, better known among horticulture enthusiasts as "Jack" Anil.

Weeks before the mela, Anil had issued an appeal through social media. Anyone possessing an old, rare or unique jackfruit tree could bring a healthy scion and have it grafted free of cost. To make the process easier, he even released a video explaining how to identify and collect suitable scions.

The response surpassed all expectations.

People arrived from Sullia and neighbouring villages carrying scions from trees they wished to preserve. As one participant after another stepped forward, Anil patiently grafted the scions onto rootstocks and handed back living replicas of beloved trees.

By the end of the three-day event, Anil had prepared 930 grafted plants for 163 farmers using scions collected from 237 trees.

The enthusiasm was evident from the very first day. Anil had brought around 500 rootstocks, onto which the scion is grafted, assuming they would be sufficient. But, he grafted 380 plants for 72 farmers on the first day alone.

"I was thrilled by the response. Such an initiative should have been organised much earlier. It was like patients eagerly waiting for a specialist doctor," he said.

Watching Anil demonstrate the art of grafting, enthusiasts took home nearly 100 rootstocks from him, so that they can graft the jackfruit tree in their backyards and conserve it.

"Jack" Anil of Kabaka in Puttur grafts jackfruit scions onto rootstocks at a Mela in Sullia, Dakshina Kannada district. PHOTO/NARENDRA RAI DERLA

## Vanishing varieties

For Anil, the initiative addresses a growing concern.

In recent years, imported and hybrid jackfruit varieties have become increasingly popular because they bear fruit quickly. But he worries that the rush towards newer varieties may come at the cost of traditional ones.

"Several new varieties have become popular because they yield quickly. But many of these do not live as long as our indigenous trees," he said.

"There are numerous local varieties that people have an emotional attachment to because of their unique taste, aroma and characteristics. We want to ensure that such trees are not lost," he said.

For him, the campaign is as much about rekindling interest in conserving local jackfruit varieties as it is about preserving the trees themselves for future generations.

Following Anil's instructional video, Hariprasad Challa from Elimale in Sullia was able to identify a suitable scion and bring it to the mela. Anil successfully prepared two saplings using it.

"I had earlier tried grafting rambutan but was unsuccessful. Watching Anil at work makes grafting look easy, but it is far more challenging than it appears," he said.

Another participant, Sudhakar N from Mugeradka in Uppinangady, arrived carrying a scion from a superior jackfruit tree that is more than 45 years old.

"The tree grows only about 15 feet tall and produces about 10 to 15 fruits annually, but it is cherished for its taste and low gum content compared to other varieties," he said.

During the grafting process, Anil observed that the tree appeared similar to certain jackfruit varieties in Kerala.

"As I had no knowledge of grafting, I never attempted it all these years," Sudhakar admitted.

For veteran agriculture journalist Shree Padre, who also carried a scion to the event, the initiative demonstrated the deep-rooted conservation culture in the coastal belt.

"An individual developing germplasm through grafting is one thing. Here, common people themselves have come forward to preserve the trees growing in their backyards for future generations," he said, describing the initiative as an extraordinary example of community participation in conservation of jackfruit diversity.

According to Shree Padre, the region has a long tradition of conserving fruit varieties. Over the past three years, the Nada Maavu Mitraru (NaMaMi) group has trained 400 to 500 people in grafting indigenous mango varieties, helping those who wished to conserve distinctive trees. However, many more people are keen to conserve such unique trees but lack either the technical expertise or the opportunity to do so.

"This initiative has shown a simple way forward and could become a trendsetter," he said.

## Continued efforts

The conservation effort does not end with the mela. Since grafting during the monsoon season can be challenging, Anil has promised continued support.

"If any grafts fail, participants can again bring scions from their trees and I will regraft them free of cost," he said, adding that a WhatsApp group would be created to assist participants.

Similar conservation efforts are underway in Kerala too, where conservation enthusiast Shyju Machathi has launched a "Call Before You Cut" campaign aimed at preserving indigenous mango trees through grafting, before they are felled.

Likewise, nursery owner Vittal Patil of Brahmavar has been conserving wild mango varieties through similar grafting efforts.

Padre believes the model demonstrated in Sullia can be replicated across the country.

A jackfruit tree on the campus of the Horticulture College, Tamaka, Kolar, home to Karnataka's first Jackfruit Progeny Orchard. PHOTO/KRISHNA M R

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

# Rising against the headwinds

**Nemichandra traces the journey of a pioneering engineer who overcame personal adversity to carve a place for herself in Indian aviation**

In 1964, a leading Kannada daily carried an article lauding a young woman named Saraswathi who was pursuing a BE degree at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), defying the prevailing belief that engineering was not a field for women.

When Saraswathi graduated with distinction in 1966 and joined Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a bright future seemed assured. It was easy to imagine her rising to become a general manager or beyond. Yet that did not happen. She eventually retired as the deputy general manager at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The reason, however, was not the proverbial glass ceiling at either organisation.

The life of Saraswathi Nagarajan illustrates the personal challenges and difficult choices that many talented women continue to face, choices that often shape the trajectory of their careers. As the world celebrates International Women in Engineering Day on June 23, the journey of this woman engineer of Karnataka deserves to be remembered.

Born in Bengaluru in 1945, Saraswathi was a brilliant student. In 1963, she completed her BSc from Mysore University securing more than 75% marks. Encouraged by her father, she applied for the three-year BE programme at IISc. She was selected and joined the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering.

Upon graduating in 1966, she joined BEL's Special Projects Team (SPT) as a probationary engineer. Those were the early years of indigenous development of airborne electronic systems and a team under SPT was working on airborne communication equipment for fighter aircraft. Saraswathi reported to C Nagarajan, an MTech graduate. She recalls his restless brilliance even today. The two eventually fell in love and married in 1968.

A year later, Saraswathi joined a team that travelled to Sulur Air Force Station near Coimbatore to test the communication system. Their first son was born in 1969. In 1970, the government decided to shift the development of airborne equipment to HAL in Hyderabad. The couple moved there in 1972, where their second son was born.

HAL opened new opportunities for Saraswathi. "I was sent to the United States for training in thick- and thin-film electronic circuits. On returning, I established a Hybrid Microelectronics Circuits Laboratory at HAL, Hyderabad," she recalled.

The company had already sponsored Nagarajan to Cranfield University, UK.

Just when everything seemed to be perfect, Nagarajan impulsively resigned from HAL and joined the Semiconductor Complex in Chandigarh. However, deteriorating health forced him to return, and he rejoined BEL in Bengaluru. Saraswathi, meanwhile, secured a transfer to HAL's Aircraft Design Bureau (ADB) in Bengaluru. Since it was a request transfer, she lost her seniority.

Saraswathi Nagarajan. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

Even after returning to Bengaluru, Nagarajan's health did not improve. His parents lived in Chennai, and the family felt better medical facilities would be available there. In 1985, he took a transfer to BEL's newly established Madras unit. Faced with a difficult decision, Saraswathi resigned from HAL in 1985 and moved to Chennai with her family. Tragedy struck just months later. Nagarajan passed away in 1986.

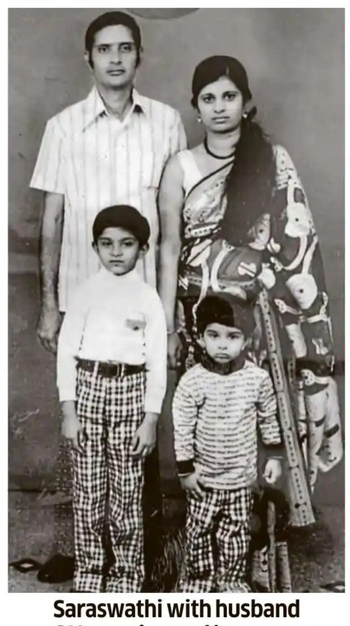
Eventually, Saraswathi returned to Bengaluru with two young sons and rented a house. She now had to rebuild her life.

## Second innings

Fortunately, her expertise and professional reputation opened doors. "I was back at HAL in 1987 and joined ADB again. My juniors were now my seniors," she recalled.

Around the same time, India's ambitious Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme had begun taking shape. The Aeronautical Development Agency was spearheading the indigenous fighter aircraft project that would later become Tejas. A team of scientists from HAL and the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) were brought together for the effort. Saraswathi was the first woman engineer from HAL on the LCA team while Dr Rajeshwari Ramamurthy of NAL was the programme's first woman scientist.

From then on, Saraswathi never looked back. She made significant contributions to the avionics and flight-control systems of both the LCA and the Hindustan Jet Trainer programme. Her contribution to the field of engineering earned her the Suman Sharma Award from the Institution of Engineers in 2003.



Saraswathi with husband C Nagarajan and her sons.

# Hosadurga fort: Tracing the Palegar past

**Surendra Pai visits the centuries-old hill fort that once guarded a kingdom but now stands vulnerable to neglect, vandalism and the passage of time**

Scattered across Karnataka, the ruins of centuries-old forts stand as silent reminders of the military prowess and cultural grandeur of bygone kingdoms. Among them stands the lesser-known but historically significant Hosadurga Fort in Chitradurga district, a sprawling hill fort that reflects the legacy of the Chitradurga Palegars.

Located about 64 km southwest of Chitradurga, this fort, built in a series of five concentric fortification walls, occupies a commanding position over the surrounding landscape. Historians regard it as the second-largest fort constructed by the Chitradurga Palegars.

According to historical records, Chikkanna Nayaka, son of Sarjeraya of Kanakuppe, a Palegar of Chitradurga, established the fort around 1675 CE. It served as a strategic military base in campaigns aimed at capturing Bagur Fort, then under the control of the rulers of Sira. In addition to the fortifications, Chikkanna Nayaka is believed to have built an armoury, a palace, a temple and soldier quarters. The fort later remained under the administration of Palegar rulers including Dodda Madakari Nayaka, Dandina Jampanna Nayaka, Bharamanna Nayaka and Hire Madakari Nayaka.

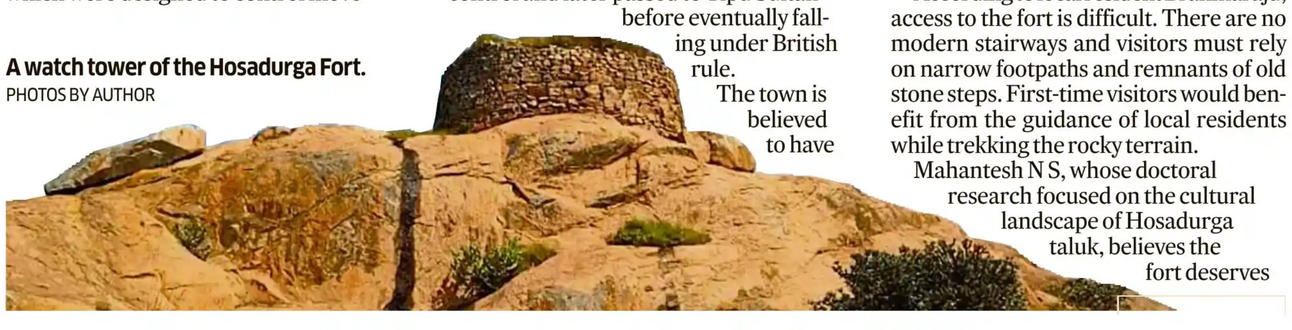
Hosadurga Fort is spread across two adjoining hills Bhairavanakombe and Hanumanakombe. The fortifications extend across both hills through multiple defensive enclosures, gateways and watch points. Historical descriptions indicate that the fort consisted of five concentric layers of walls, with eight gateways in total. A massive wall connecting the two hills measures nearly three metres in width and four metres in height. Behind the Bhairava temple located on the Bhairavanakombe Hill stands a 44-pillared *Maddina Mane*, believed to have functioned as an armoury. Its roof is constructed using lime mortar.

The western side of Bhairavanakombe hill contains fortified walls, drainage channels and guard houses that enabled surveillance and defence. Massive rocks were used in the construction, demonstrating the engineering skills of the period.

Guard rooms flank the gateways, which were designed to control movement into the fort complex while strategically positioned watchtowers allowed defenders to monitor enemy movements from great distances.

Today, scattered across the hill are the remains of temples, *mandapas*, herostones (*Veeragallu*), memorial stones (*Mastikallu*), inscriptions and sections of collapsed fort walls. Nagara stones and other archaeological remains can also be found around the site. Next to the temples dedicated to Veerabhadraswamy and Kalikadevi, lies a pond known as Hunasehonda, believed to have supplied water to soldiers stationed at the fort. Local residents point out that the pond rarely dries up, even during severe summers.

During the reign of Madakari Nayaka V in the second half of the 18th century, Hosadurga came under Hyder Ali's control and later passed to Tipu Sultan before eventually falling under British rule.



A watch tower of the Hosadurga Fort. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

The town is believed to have been named after the 'new fort' (Hosa Durga), which historians say was modelled on the famed Chitradurga Fort.

An entry gate to Hosadurga fort from Hanumanakombe.

The 44-pillared armoury atop Bhairavanakombe Hill at Hosadurga Fort.

## Conservation needed

Despite its historical importance, the fort today remains largely neglected.

According to local resident Brahmaraju, access to the fort is difficult. There are no modern stairways and visitors must rely on narrow footpaths and remnants of old stone steps. First-time visitors would benefit from the guidance of local residents while trekking the rocky terrain.

Mahantesh N S, whose doctoral research focused on the cultural landscape of Hosadurga taluk, believes the fort deserves urgent conservation attention.

"The fort should be brought under the Archeological Survey of India. If developed on the lines of Chitradurga Fort, it could emerge as an important tourist attraction while ensuring the preservation of its historical remains," he says.

Though neglected for much of the year, the fort comes alive during Mahashivaratri. Hundreds of devotees climb Bhairavanakombe to participate in celebrations at the hilltop shrine. A few years ago, efforts were initiated to develop the fort as a tourist destination, but the momentum faded.

Today, even as the town grows and transforms, the fort that gave Hosadurga its name stands neglected, a fading reminder of a rich legacy awaiting recognition and restoration.

## Blundell, Phillips lead New Zealand recovery

**LONDON, AFP:** Tom Blundell hit New Zealand's first fifty of the series and Glenn Phillips posted an unbeaten 49 as the tourists fought back against England on an intriguing opening day of the second Test at the Oval on Wednesday.

The Black Caps were 291/7 at stumps as England looked to put the Ben Stokes saga behind them.

Blundell made 51 and shared valuable partnerships of 81 with Daryl Mitchell (44) and 75 with Phillips after New Zealand, sent into bat, had slumped to 107-4.

This was a much-improved New Zealand batting display following their 115-run defeat in the first of a three-match series at Lord's earlier this month.

But on day where four quicks did the bulk of the bowling, it was all-rounder Jacob Bethell's left-arm spin that did for Blundell, deceived by a slower, flighted delivery he miscued to stand-in England skipper Joe Root at short midwicket.

Blundell's exit came two deliveries after he completed an 82-ball fifty on an an Oval pitch with far more pace and bounce than the one at Lord's, where New Zealand were dismissed for just 113 and 138 in difficult batting conditions.

**Brief scores:** New Zealand: 291/7 in 77 overs (Tom Latham 27, Rachin Ravindra 33, Daryl Mitchell 44, Tom Blundell 51, Glenn Phillips 49 n.o.; Sonny Baker 2-63, Jacob Bethell 2-8) vs England.

AQUATICS SENIOR NATIONALS

# Srihari qualifies for CWG & Asiad en route to gold

**25-year-old from Bengaluru breaches the mark in 50m backstroke**

BENGALURU, DHNS

Srihari Nataraj's men's 50m backstroke gold on Wednesday at the 79th Senior National Aquatics Championships was perhaps less celebrated as the Karnataka swimmer clocking 25.21 seconds in the heats earlier in the day gave him more joy.

The timing in the heats helped the 25-year-old breach the qualification mark for both the Commonwealth Games (25.34s) and the Asian Games, set at 25.39s.

The Bengaluru lad finished inside the marks yet again in the final race, but this time was a tad slower at 25.32s to top the podium on the second day of the competition in Ahmedabad.

There was more joy in store for Karnataka as Dhinidhi Desinghu touched the finish line in 2:03.07 to claim gold in the women's 200m freestyle before Akash Mani, Aneesh S Gowda, Nina Venkatesh and Tanishi Gupta combined to set a new national record en route to the gold in the mixed 4x100m freestyle relay.

**Karnataka swimmers continue to shine at the 79th Senior National Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Aneesh S Gowda, Tanishi Gupta, Nina Venkatesh and Akash Mani (from left) set a new record and topped the podium in the mixed 4x100m freestyle relay. Dhinidhi Desinghu won gold in the women's 200m freestyle. Srihari Nataraj poses with his gold in the men's 50m backstroke.**

The fourth gold for the state on the day came through the men's quartet of Dharshan S, Akash Mani, Aneesh S Gowda and Dhakshan S when they timed 7:38.71 to win the 4x200m freestyle race.

Maharashtra's Saanvi Deshwal was the other record-breaker as her 2:19.15 effort set a new mark and gave her gold in the women's 200m medley.

**Results: Men: 50m Freestyle:** Jashua Thomas (TN) 23.24s, 1; Heer Gitesh Shah (Mah) 23.33s, 2; Heer Sunil Pitroda (Guj) 23.34s, 3.

**50m Backstroke:** Srihari Nataraj (Kar) 25.32 secs, 1; Rishabh Anupam Das (Mah) 25.69s, 2; Vinayak Vijay (SSCB) 26.14s, 3.

**100m Breaststroke:** Danush Suresh (TN) 1:02.19, 1; Vidith S Shankar (Kar) 1:02.26, 2; Likith Selvaraj Prema (SSCB) 1:03.45, 3.

**4x200m Freestyle:** Karnataka (7:38.71), 1; SSCB (7:42.13), 2; Maharashtra (7:46.52), 3.

**Women: 50m Backstroke:** Suvana C Baskar (Kar) 29.85s, 1; Jiya Yadav (UP) 30.27s, 2; Pratyasa Ray (Odi) 30.59s, 3.

**200m Freestyle:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar) 2:03.07, 1; Jahnabi Kashyap (Asm) 2:05.93, 2; Aditi Satish Hegde (2:06.45) 3.

**200m Medley:** Saanvi Deshwal (Mah, NMR: 2:19.15, Old: 2:21.15 Hashika Ramachandra), 1; Tanishi Gupta (Kar) 2:20.61, 2; Thanya Shadakshari (Kar) 2:23.22, 3.

**Mixed 4x100m Freestyle:** Karnataka (NMR: 3:37.68, Old: 3:41.18, Karnataka), 1; Tamil Nadu (3:42.02), 2; Maharashtra (3:44.80), 3.

## Nikhil, Deepak, Saneh punch wins

GUIYANG (CHINA), PTI

Indian boxers Nikhil, Deepak and Saneh advanced to the next round after emerging victorious in their respective weight categories on the third day of the Boxing World Cup Stage 2 here on Wednesday.

Competing in the men's 55kg category, Nikhil registered a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Brazil's Kelvy Trindade to move ahead in the competition.

Deepak joined him in the next round after producing an equally dominant display in the men's 70kg division, defeating Japan's Sewon Okazawa, a 2025 World Championships silver medalist, via a 5-0 verdict.

**Nikhil.** BFI

In the women's section, Saneh (65kg) also progressed further after securing a hard-fought 4-1 victory over South Korea's Seon Sujin.

In other preliminary contests on day three, Malsawmtluanga (80kg) went down 1-4 against Jordan's Ashaish Hussein, while Mahi Lama (60kg) bowed out after suffering a 0-5 defeat to Mongolia's Monkhor Namuun.

Two Indian boxers are scheduled to take the ring on Day 4 in Thursday. Minakshi (51kg) will square off against Poland's Natalia Kuczewska in the women's section, while Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) clashes with Kyrgyzstan's Mirzokhid Imamnazarov.

**Results:** Men: Nikhil (55kg) bt Kelvy Trindade (Brazil) 5-0; Deepak (70kg) bt Sewon Okazawa (Japan) 5-0; Malsawmtluanga (80kg) lt to Ashaish Hussein (Jordan) 1-4.

**Women:** Saneh (65kg) bt Seon Sujin (South Korea-W) 4-1; Mahi Lama (60kg) lost to Monkhor Namuun (Mongolia-W) 0-5.

## Asbar-ridden King's Battalion wins feature race

**MYSURU RESULTS**

Zulquarnain-trained King's Battalion, ridden by Ashhad Asbar, won the Dr N M Srinivas Memorial Trophy, the main event of the races on Wednesday.

**1. The Kaginele Plate - 1400M:** Ankush (Salman Khan) 1, Trump Baby (Afsar Khan) 2, Optimism (Arvind Kumar) 3, Peter's Choice (Vishal) 4. WB: Snk, Nose, 3 1/4. T: 1:25.56. TB: Bipin Salvi. Fav: Trump Baby.

**2. The Somwarpet Plate - (Div-II) 1100M:** Adena (Faiz) 1, Truth In Wine (Siddaraju) 2, Elsa (M S Deora) 3, Calculus (Sah Farid Ansari) 4. WB: 4 3/4, 1 1/4, 2. T: 1:06.02. TB: Feroz Khan. Fav: Elsa.

**3. The Takshashila Plate - 1600M:** Natural Diamond (Ankit Pal) 1, Bold (Darshan N) 2, Tigerking (V Shinde) 3, To Hot To Touch (S Imran) 4. Not run: Vayu and Multicrown. WB: 8 1/4, Shd, 1 3/4. T: 1:38.47. TB: Mansoor Khan. Fav: Natural Diamond.

**4. The Somwarpet Plate (Div-I) - 1100M:** Mystic Charm (V Shinde) 1, Mr Karnataka (Mohd Talib) 2, Royal Chivalry (M Prabhakaran) 3, Sunway Lagoon (Rafique ) 4. Not run: Gypsy Soul and King D. WB: 3 1/2, 3/4, 1 1/2. T: 1-04.87. TB: K S Mandanna. Fav: Mr Karnataka.

**5. The Loyal Prince Plate (Div-II) - 1200M:** Malet Spring (Darshan Antony) 1, Dufy (A S Peter) 2, Suryakrishi (Sah Farid Ansari) 3, Natural Light (Rakesh K) 4. Not run: Silver Days Again. WB: Hd, 3 1/2, 4 3/4. T: 1-11.53. TB: Aditya K. Fav: Malet Spring.

**6. The Dr N.M.Srinivas Memorial Trophy - 1400M:** King's Battalion (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Still I Rise (Vishal) 2, Loch Lomond (Sah Farid Ansari) 3, The Flying Feet (N Ramesh Kumar) 4. WB: Shd, 2 1/2, 1 3/4. T: 1:22.09. TB: Zulquarnain. Fav: Monterio.

**7. The Loyal Prince Plate (Div-I) - 1200M:** Flashing Famous (A Agarwal) 1, Seolfor Bullet (A Mhatre) 2, Sherpa (Darshan N) 3, Opus One (Vishal) 4. WB: 1, Snk, 1. T: 1:11.84.TB: Ganesh J. Fav: Seolfor Bullet.

**8. The Sutlej Plate - 1600M:** Seeking Alpha (Darshan N) 1, Prince Corporate (Sah Farid Ansari) 2, Aurele (Neeraj Rawal) 3, Mystic Divine (Faiz) 4. WB: 5 1/2, 3 3/4, 2 3/4. T: 1:36.31. TB: M Eshwer. Fav: Seeking Alpha.

**Mysuru dividends**

**I race:** Tote: Rs 186 (w) 43, 13, 20 p; Shp: Rs 31 ; Thp: Rs 46 ; Fc: Rs 3660 ; Q: Rs 680; Tri: Rs 21214 & 18183.

**II race:** Tote: Rs 41 (w) 17, 36, 10 p; Shp: Rs 68; Thp: Rs 57; Fc: Rs 342; Q: Rs 271; Tri: Rs 515 & 140.

**III race:** Tote: Rs 22 (w) 11, 11, 16 p; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 55; Fc: Rs 76; Q: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 180 & 58.

**IV race:** Tote: Rs 40 (w) 31, 17, 10 p; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 48; Fc: Rs 148; Q: Rs 55; Tri: Rs 635 & 445.

**V race:** Tote: Rs 19 (w) 12, 16, 26 p; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 41; Fc: Rs 96; Q: Rs 53; Tri: Rs 341 & 166.

**VI race:** Tote: Rs 75 (w) 27, 24, 23 p; Shp: Rs 94; Thp: Rs 57; Fc: Rs 701; Q: Rs 465; Tri: Rs 3842 & 1660.

**VII race:** Tote: Rs 58 (w) 33, 17, 14 p; Shp: Rs 40 ; Thp: Rs 55 ; Fc: Rs 591 ; Q: Rs 143 ; Tri: Rs 517 & 220.

**VIII race:** Tote: Rs 20 (w) 10, 25, 35 p; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 64; Fc: Rs 254; Q: Rs 129; Tri: Rs 945 & 281.

**Jackpot:** Rs 16,241 & 4350. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs C/F.

**I treble:** Rs C/F. **II treble:** Rs 684. **III treble:** Rs 2284.


**SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS**
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. EST(1)/Con-Recruit/ 109 /2026-27 Date:.17-06-2026

**NOTIFICATION**

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the following vacant posts in various departments in Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics on contract basis for a period of six (6) months. **(Group A)**

| Sl No | Department | Designation | No.of Post | Roaster Points | Monthly Salary |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Orthopaedics | Assistant Professor | 03 | SC (Category A) (Others)<br>GM (Women Candidate)<br>III B (Rural Candidate) | ₹.81,250/- |
| 2 | General Surgery | Assistant Professor | 01 | GM (Physically Handicapped | ₹.81,250/- |

NOTE: **(1)** Interested and eligible candidates should download the application form from the organization's website: sgito.org **(2)** Filled application forms along with certificates and fees should be submitted on or before dated **02-07-2026** by **4:00** pm. The application fee will be Rs. 2,000/- in respect of GM, Rs. 500/- for SC/ST, Cat-I and Physically handicapped and for OBC candidates Rs.1,500/-. SC/ST/Physically handicapped candidates should submit copy of concerned certificate along-with application.**(3)** For further information, please contact the office in between **9:00** am to **4:00** pm. **(4)** If Candidates from the respective categories are not available General category candidates shall be considered for appointment on contract basis.

DIPR/SI/1186/2026-27 **Sd/- Director**



**BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION**
**MALLESHWARAM ZONE**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Building, Chennammanakere Achukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560 085.
No:EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 17.06.2026

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
**(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)**
**website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Bengaluru, invites tender from eligible Tenderers registered contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD or any Government Organisation for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1. | Annual Maintenance for filling up of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Ward No. 95,96,98 Kathriguppe Sub-Division. **Amount Put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 38.11, EMD (in ₹): 77,000/-.** |
| 2. | Annual Maintenance for filling up of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Ward No. 97,103,104 Srinivasanagara Sub-Division. **Amount Put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 38.12, EMD (in ₹): 77,000/-.** |
| 3. | Annual Maintenance for filling up of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Ward No. 99,100,101,102 Hanumanthanagara Sub-Division. **Amount Put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 50.79, EMD (in ₹): 1,02,000/-.** |
| 4. | Annual Maintenance of Storm Water Drain in Basavanagudi Division. **Amount Put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 45.77, EMD (in ₹): 92,000/-.** |

**Calendar of Events: (1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP from: **20.06.2026, 3:00 p.m. onwards. (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting on: **25.06.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents on : **02.07.2026 up to 4.00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Tender on : **03.07.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Financial Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC.**



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
**U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE**
**CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP**
**HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017. ( Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)**
**BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE**

| Sl. No | Description | Details | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of work | Electrical Works at S-4 Lab, MSA building at URSC-ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-37 | Electrical Works for proposed Power Electronics Labs at Solar Panel & Battery Lab and other minor works at LN2 Yard & C&MG, URSC-ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru | Providing Extension Boards and allied electrical works at various Checkout Labs at ISITE, Bengaluru | Shifting of 29T Shaker from CATVAC to DTF at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru ( Electrical Works) |
| 2 | E-Tender Notice No. | URSC/C&MG/E/M/01/2026-27 Dt. 15-06-2026 | URSC/C&MG/E/M/02/2026-27 Dt. 15-06-2026 | URSC/C&MG/E/M/03/2026-27 Dt.16-06-2026 | URSC/C&MG/E/M/04/2026-27 Dt.15-06-2026 |
| 3 | Estimated cost put to Tender | ₹ 21.78 Lakhs | ₹ 20.32 Lakhs | ₹ 23.80 Lakhs | ₹ 23.97 Lakhs |
| 4 | Period of completion | Six (06) Months | Eight (08) Months | Eight (08) Months | Eight (08) Months |
| 5 | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | **₹ 43,560/- valid for 180 days** | **₹ 40,640/- valid for 180 days** | **₹ 47,600/- valid for 180 days** | **₹ 47,940/- valid for 180 days** |

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

**Sd/-**
**Group Director, C&MG, URSC**



**BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION**
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01), Mayo Hall, Public Utility Building, 17th Floor, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001

**TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**

**Reference:** 1. BCCC/SADH(Zone-01)/TENDER/01/2026-27 Date: 04.06.2026

With reference to the subject cited above, tenders were invited vide reference (1) within the jurisdiction of the Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-01, Bengaluru Central City Corporation.

Furthermore, the said tender notification has been cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons. A new tender will be floated after rectifying the technical and administrative errors.

**Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01), BCCC**



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
**LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)**
**PEENYA, BANGALORE - 560058.**
**LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (LCMD)**
**[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5047, 5045, 5086, (080)-28392310]**

**BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)**

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following work:

**Name of the work : NIT NO & Date:** Proposed Modification to Director's office at 1st Floor of Admin Block, LEOS, Peenya, Bengaluru – 58 (Civil & PH works). NIET No: LEOS/CMG/CW-01/2025-26/R1 Dtd: 11.06.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 71.47 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 1,42,940/-; Period of Completion in months :** 06 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 17.06.2026; **Closing Date :** 30.06.2026

**Name of the work : NIT NO & Date:** Contract for carrying out physio-chemical and bacteriological testing of water; Cauvery water, bore well water, treated water and effluents from STP at LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bangalore-58 NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2026-27/LMN-01 Dtd: 11.06.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 2.99 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 5,980/-; Period of Completion in months :** 12 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 17.06.2026; **Closing Date :** 30.06.2026

**Name of the work : NIT NO & Date:** Proposed Renovation works in SAFF Lab, 1st Floor Lab Block, LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2026-27/LMN-03 Dtd: 11.06.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 21.60 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 43,200/-; Period of Completion in months :** 04 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 17.06.2026; **Closing Date :** 30.06.2026

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

**-Sd-**
**GROUP DIRECTOR**
**CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)**
**URSC, BANGALORE.**



**MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**
**MANDYA-571401**
Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone No: 08232-231003, 222086,231197, 224040, Fax-08232-231001
E-mail: mimsmandyaoffice@gmail.com, Website: www.mimsmandya@gmail.com
No: MIMS/Sup-D/Biochem+Physio+Micro/E-T/02/2026-27 Dated: 15.06.2026

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover Bid System)**

Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya, invites E-Tender for **Physiology, Biochemistry, Microbiology Departments Supply of Lab Items to the Teaching Hospital**, (approximate amount **Rs.75.00 Lakhs**) of MIMS Mandya from the Manufacture/s or Authorized Dealers in two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 and Rules thereunder. Submission of e-tender and other details can be obtained in e-procurement portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/MANDYA/SHIRDISAI/213/2026-27 **Sd/-** Chief Administrative officer, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
**ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ**
E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichurn@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316
ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಮ.ನಿ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16–06–2026.

**ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).**

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity. mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

| ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ | ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ | ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ | ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2024–25 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಎನ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ ಅನುದಾನ | Procurement of 01 No Mechanical Street Sweeping Machine that uses Mechanical Conveyor for transfer of dirt tier-4 auxiliary engine, conveyor, dual and 02 side brooms, 01-Rear broom with 3.5 CUM Capacity Dirt Hopper with High raised and side ways dumping feature chassis minimum 11 ton Capacity BS-6 **Estimate Cost Rs.146,08,000/-** | DMA/2026-27/ IND6359 |
| 2 | ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ | Procurement of Vehicles for Official Use, Field Inspection, Monitoring and Administrative Functions of Various Departments of Raichur City Corporation. **Estimate Cost Rs.72,00,000/-** | DMA/2026-27/ IND6334 |
| 3 | ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ | Animal Birth Control ABC Surgery for Stray Dogs and ARV Vaccination Animal Birth Control Programme In Various Places Raichur City Corporation Limits **Estimate Cost Rs. 27,50,000/-** | DMA/2025-26/ SE7607 /CALL-2 |
| 4 | 2024–25, 2025–26 ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ ಅನುದಾನ. | Request for proposal (RFP) for Selection of an NGO for the Community Engagement and Awareness Campaign to Address The Problem of Synthetic Toddy Consumption in Harijanwada-1, Harijanwada 2, and Devinagar wards in Urban Raichur- 2 year programme **Estimate Cost Rs.1,02,47,600/-** | DMA/2025-26/ SE7491 /CALL-2 |

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

DIP/RCR/128/KSMCA/130/2026-27



Government of Karnataka
**OFFICE OF THE TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHALKI**
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸಭಾ/ಇಎನ್‌ಜಿ/ಸಿಆರ್–  /2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–06–2026

**:: TENDER NOTIFCATION ::**

1) Name of work Indent no: 52646/Call-4, 56527/Call-2, 58427/Call-2 & 59268, 2) Estimated cost As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 4) EMD amount As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 5) Last date for submission of tender **29-06-2026** ಸಾ: **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 6) Technical bid opening **30-06-2026** ಸಾ: **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 7) Financial bid opening **02-07-2026** ಸಾ: **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ , 8) Address for communication Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Bhalki Pin code 585328 Phone No: 8892941328 Email: ka.bhalki.tmc@gmail.com, 9) Website https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

**Sd/- CHIEF OFFICER TMC BHALKI**

DIPR/Bidar/65/KSMC&A/2026-27



**KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED**
**(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**
**Executive Engineer KBJNL, Quality control Division**
**Bheemarayanagudi Tq: Shahapur Dist: Yadgiri Email Id:eeqcdkbjnl@gmail.com**
NO.KBJNL/EE/QCD/Bgudi/PB-1/2026-27/133/ Dated:16.06.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM)**

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL Bangalore, Executive Engineer KBJNL, Quality control Division Bheemarayanagudi, Tq: Shahapur Dist: Yadgir invites Short term tender through the Karnataka e-procurement portal from the Labour Department registered Firm/ agencies for providing outsourced man power services. As per KTTP Act rule no.28 tender will be adopted in two Cover system. The blank tenders can be obtained through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box.

Name of work: Deployment of Outsource Staff in Circle, Division Alamatti/ Bheemarayanagudi and Sub-Divisions under Executive Engineer KBJNL, Q.C. Division Bheemarayangudi (IN: KBJNL/2026-27/SE0280)

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE DETAILS OF THE WORK PUT TO E- TENDERING**

**1) Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) Amount:** Rs.1,10,000/- **2) Amount Put to Tender**: Rs.55.00Lakhs **3)Tender Inviting authority:** Executive Engineer KBJNL, Quality control Division Bheemarayanagudi e-mail:eeqcdkbjnl@gmail.com **4) Date and time of availability of Tender Document:** From 17.06.2026 to 25.06.2026 up to 4.00 PM IST **5) Last date for submission of online Tenders On Karnataka Public Procurement Portal:** On 25.06.2026 up to 4.00 PM **6) Date and Time for opening of Technical Tender:** On 29.06.2026 at 11.00 AM **7) Date and Time for opening of Financial Tender:** On 02.07.2026 at 11.00 AM **8) Address for Communications:** Executive Engineer KBJNL, Quality control Division Bheemarayanagudi

**NOTE:** - Further information may be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours or from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**KBJNL, Quality control Division**

DIP/YDG/115/KSMC&A/2026-27

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

# Magical Messi paints another masterpiece

## Holders Argentina sink Algeria as star forward strikes hat-trick

KANSAS CITY, AFP

Lionel Messi scored a dazzling hat-trick for Argentina on Tuesday to equal Miroslav Klose's all-time record of 16 goals at World Cups as the defending champions swept Algeria aside 3-0.

On a night for the ages in Kansas City, the records kept tumbling for Argentina's miracle man, considered by many to be the greatest footballer of all time.

When the match kicked off at the home of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs, Messi became the first player to feature in six World Cup tournaments, in his 200th international match.

And the 38-year-old, who made his first appearance at a World Cup as a teenager in 2006, lit up the occasion with three goals in a clinical display by the reigning champions.

"To enjoy this with my family, with my teammates, the ones who are always there, is a really beautiful moment," said the Inter Miami star. "I'm happy."

He added: "I'm grateful to the fans, because once again they've shown that Argentina is crazy about this. We packed the stadium again."

| Argentina | Algeria |
|---|---|
| 3 | 0 |

Messi produced a majestic finish from distance in the 17th minute, sparking a frenzy among his adoring fans, who had turned the match into a virtual home game.

He netted again in the second half from close range, gobbling up a rebound to take him just one goal behind the all-time record held by Germany's Klose.

And Messi completed his first hat-trick at a World Cup with an unstoppable finish in the 76th minute.

The diminutive genius was substituted shortly afterwards, forcing Argentine fans to wait to see their hero have a shot at the outright record.

The Group J match in the open-air stadium started at a frantic pace and both sides had early goals ruled out for offside, including one from Messi. But Argentina took the lead when Rodrigo De Paul played a beautifully measured through ball, which Messi picked up before driving at goal and unleashing a fierce drive from outside the penalty area that curled away from goalkeeper Luca Zidane.

The South American team were largely in control, fluid in attack with their revered number 10 pulling the strings.

But as the clock ticked towards half-time Algeria enjoyed a better spell, with Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez forced to parry a shot from Fares Chaibi.

Messi curled another effort over the bar in the early minutes of the second half and Zidane kept out a shot from Lautaro Martinez.

But the crowd did not have to wait long to celebrate another goal from the veteran Inter Miami forward.

Zidane failed to deal with a sizzling Alexis Mac Allister strike and Messi was there to sweep home in the 60th minute.

Time stood still six minutes later as Messi was through again but this time Zidane pushed the ball over the bar.

But he was not to be denied, completing his hat-trick after being set up by substitute Nico Gonzalez. "I don't have the words to describe Messi," said Argentina boss Lionel Scaloni. "For 20 years, he's had us used to seeing things like this, and he inspires everyone who watches him play."

The Argentine showed his poaching instinct in front of the goal as he scored three past goalkeeper Luca Zidane. REUTERS

Argentina's Lionel Messi hit his first-ever World Cup hat-trick to sink Algeria 3-0 in their opener at Kansas City Stadium. AFP

**16** goals

Messi equalled Miroslav Klose's all-time World Cup goals record

Became the first player in history to appear in **six FIFA World Cups**

2006 | 2010 | 2014 | 2018 | 2022 | 2026

Earned his **200th** international cap for Argentina.

Became only the **third men's player to clock 200 internationals,** after **Cristiano Ronaldo** and **Kuwait's Bader Al-Mutawa.**

Scored his **first-ever World Cup hat-trick** and also the first player to do so in the **2026 edition.**

Extended his record as **Argentina's all-time leading goalscorer.**

# Messi leaves Scaloni awestruck

KANSAS CITY, AFP

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said it was "hard to explain" the genius of Lionel Messi after his superstar equalled the all-time record of 16 goals at World Cups against Algeria on Tuesday.

38-year-old Messi reached a number of outlandish landmarks on an unforgettable evening in Kansas City, appearing in a record sixth World Cup and collecting his 200th international cap.

He scored two stunning goals either side of a poacher's effort as the defending champions launched their World Cup bid with a swaggering show of power.

Messi's goals took him level with former Germany striker Miroslav Klose on 16 and his performance suggested more will come at the 2026 tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

"About Leo, it's quite hard to explain," Scaloni said at his post-match press conference.

"We are amazed with him still, although we get to see him on a daily basis and he's been the best for 20 years, he still pulls it off every single match. You don't have to be an Argentina fan to admire what he's done at age 38."

Scaloni, who masterminded Argentina's third World Cup triumph in Qatar in 2022, said Messi, who first appeared on football's biggest stage in 2006, did not behave like a superstar in the team camp.

"He's playing with a group of friends, with people that are going to play with their heart for him," said the Argentina boss.

"Whenever they need to have a conversation with him they can just approach him and it's really hard to explain whatever he conveys and I could stay here with you for over an hour trying to explain exactly what he does, but you need to be there to really understand.

Lionel Scaloni

"You need to understand the atmosphere, the ambience."

Scaloni praised his whole team for a dominant performance in their opening Group J match at the home of NFL team Kansas City Chiefs.

"Whenever you're in a pickle, it's your friend, it's your peer who will help you out," said the 48-year-old coach. "We did face difficulties. Luckily, not that many, but whenever we've encountered difficulties, there's somebody there for you.

"And if there's somebody to give you a hand, things are much easier and that will never change."

Argentina, ranked by FIFA as the top team in the world, next face Austria, before rounding off the group stage against Jordan.

# Switzerland, Bosnia seek winning response

Switzerland coach Murat Yakin (left) and captain Granit Xhaka will hope to bag their first Group B win.

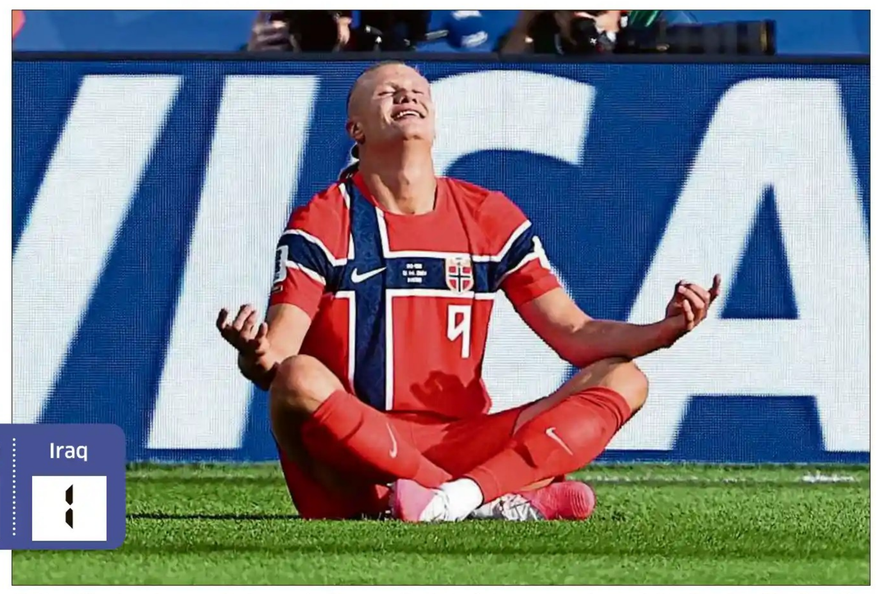
LOS ANGELES, REUTERS: Switzerland and Bosnia and Herzegovina will both look to turn opening draws into momentum when they meet in a pivotal World Cup Group B clash at Los Angeles Stadium on Thursday.

With all four teams in the group level on one point after 1-1 draws in the opening round, the noon kickoff could go a long way toward shaping a section that remains finely balanced before the final matches. Switzerland were on course for a victory over underdogs Qatar on Saturday after Breel Embolo converted an early penalty.

But the Swiss were caught flat-footed in the final moments, conceding a stoppage-time own goal that denied Murat Yakin's side all three points and left the group favourites with a draw that felt more like a defeat. Bosnia endured similar frustration where Jovo Lukic gave them a lead against Canada. But they struggled to create chances after that and gave up a second-half goal in a 1-1 draw.

# Haaland's double blow uplifts Norway

FOXBOROUGH (USA), AFP



Erling Haaland scored a brace in Norway's 4-1 victory over Iraq at the Boston Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. REUTERS

| Norway | Iraq |
|---|---|
| 4 | 1 |

Erling Haaland struck his first World Cup goals as Norway beat Iraq 4-1 on Tuesday in their first game at a major tournament in 26 years.

The Manchester City striker turned in from close range to give Norway the lead on 29 minutes in Boston, but Aymen Hussein's header brought Iraq level.

Haaland pounced on an error at the back to put Norway ahead again before half-time and take his goals tally at international level to 57 in just 51 matches.

Leo Ostigard headed in a third for Norway moments after coming off the bench to effectively wrap up victory. Norway got a fourth deep into stoppage time through a Hussein own goal.

The win left Norway on top of Group I on goal difference, level with France on three points after Les Bleus overcame Senegal 3-1 earlier in the day. The Norwegians face the African powerhouses in their next game in New Jersey on June 22.

No team endured a longer or more perilous road to the World Cup than Iraq, who secured their place as the 48th and final qualifiers in March after a 21-match campaign that stretched across 867 days.

Hussein, scorer of the decisive goal in the play-off win over Bolivia, was then held and questioned for hours by US immigration officials after arriving with the squad ahead of Iraq's first World Cup since 1986.

Norway last played at the tournament in 1998, when coach Stale Solbakken was a member of the squad that famously beat Brazil in the group stage before exiting in the last 16. He also featured at Euro 2000.

After breezing impressively through qualifying, twice thrashing Italy, they are hoping a golden generation of players - led by Haaland and Arsenal midfielder Martin Odegaard - can break new ground in North America.

Solbakken predicted Haaland would make a "very big impact" at his first major finals, and the City star was quick to deliver on that promise.

Antonio Nusa's trickery was a problem for Iraq, and his incisive pass released the overlapping David Moller Wolfe clear before Haaland stretched to steer in the low cross from the left.

Iraq, who lost all their of group games on their only previous appearance, did not let that get to them as they equalised 10 minutes later.

Amir Al-Ammari found space just inside the area and clipped in a cross, with Hussein rising brilliantly to power a header past Orjan Nyland.

But Iraq only had themselves to blame as they giftwrapped Haaland's second of the contest.

Goalkeeper Jalal Hassan was slow to react to a softly-hit backpass, his attempted clearance smacking off Haaland's shin and ricocheting into the net.

# Austria beat Jordan to end 36-year wait for win

SANTA CLARA, AP

Austria won a World Cup game for the first time in 36 years with a 3-1 victory over a Jordan team on debut at soccer's premier global event.

| Austria | Jordan |
|---|---|
| 3 | 1 |

An own goal from a corner kick that deflected off Jordanian defender Yazan Al Arab gave Austria a 2-1 lead in the 76th minute on Tuesday night. Veteran striker Marko Arnautovic's penalty kick deep in stoppage team extended the margin.

"This was a very intense evening, sometimes a little too intense," Austria coach Ralf Rangnick said.

"Jordan did an amazing job and made it very difficult for us. At the end of the day, we deserved to win but it was very difficult."

The Group J game between a Jordanian team at the World Cup for the first time and an Austria squad back on soccer's biggest stage after missing the last six tournaments featured plenty of excitement.

It peaked in a stretch in the second half that featured an equalizer by Jordan and two balls sent into the net off corner kicks by Austria - with only one of those counting.

The 37-year-old Arnautovic had appeared to give Austria the lead when he fired in after a misplay by Jordanian goalkeeper Yazeed Abulaila.

Marko Arnautovic (centre) celebrates with Stefan Posch (left) and Romano Schmid after scoring Austria's third goal. AFP

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

# On point Mbappe steadies France's wobbly start

## Striker's brace helps Les Bleus ease past Senegal

EAST RUTHERFORD, AFP

Kylian Mbappe scored twice as France launched their bid for a third World Cup crown with a 3-1 victory over Senegal in Group I on Tuesday.

Real Madrid star Mbappe took his career World Cup goals tally to 14 -- two behind all-time leader Miroslav Klose -- and Bradley Barcola was also on target as Les Bleus secured all three points for Didier Deschamps' side.

| France | Senegal |
|---|---|
| 3 | 1 |

Mbappe darted across the penalty area to convert a brilliant Michael Olise pass on 66 minutes to break the deadlock in a contest in which France struggled badly in the first half, but came to life after the break.

Paris Saint-Germain's Barcola came off the bench to get the second late on, before his club colleague Ibrahim Mbaye pulled one back in stoppage time for Senegal.

But Mbappe saved the best for last, blasting in from long range in the 96th minute to seal the win, and become France's all-time top scorer with 58 goals.

"I play to make history for my country and to ensure my team reaches the final and wins the World Cup," Mbappe said.

"It's only the first group-stage match. I think people are bound to get carried away or be critical, but we must always remain very level-headed and stoic about what we have to do."

The decision by coach Didier Deschamps to move Olise infield from the right wing was crucial in swinging the game the way of the two-time World Cup winners.

But it is Mbappe who grabbed the spotlight in what turned out to be a memorable 99th appearance for his country.

Mbappe renewed his extraordinary love affair with the World Cup, in which he scored in the 2018 final as France won, and netted a stunning hat-trick in their defeat on penalties to Argentina in the 2022 final in Qatar.

His double took him past Pele's 12 and overtook the 13 of Lionel Messi and fellow Frenchman Just Fontaine.

He is now level with Gerd Mueller in the overall list, with only Klose and the Brazilian Ronaldo (15) still ahead of him.

France, one of the pre-tournament favourites, will be expected to build on this to ease into the last 32, with outsiders Iraq up next before a meeting with Erling Haaland's Norway.

"It's a relief, we were a bit apprehensive, a bit tense at the start, but we were up against a good side," Deschamps said.

Deschamps has been wary of overconfidence in his talented squad.

A team led by veteran forward Sadio Mane, and featuring four starters born in France, were playing their first competitive game since the Africa Cup of Nations final in Morocco in January.

### Mbappe numbers' game

**3** Number of hat-tricks for France

**18** Mbappe's age when he made his France debut

**7** Most number of consecutive matches with at least one goal for France, from early June last year to late March this year

**14** Number of goals in World Cups. Former Germany striker Miroslav Klose and Argentina's Lionel Messi share the record at 16 goals

**10** Number of times Mbappe has been shown a yellow card for France.

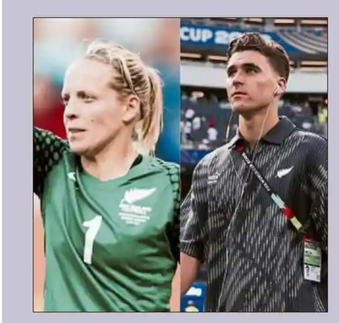
**2** Number of World Cup final goals scored in: against Croatia in 2018, aged 19, and against Argentina in 2022.

**99** Number of matches for France. He could overtake coach and former captain Didier Deschamps (103)

Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring France's first goal during their Group I match against Senegal. AFP

FIFA WORLD CUP

## Like mother Jenny like son Tyler



When Tyler Bindon came in off the bench for New Zealand in its World Cup opener against Iran, he made a bit of history with his mom, reports AP from New York.

Jenny Bindon and Tyler are the first mother and son to play in the World Cup.

Jenny, a goalkeeper for New Zealand from 2004-14, played in the Women's World Cup in 2007 and 2011, as well as the Olympic Games in 2008 and 2012. Tyler, 21, is a center back who plays in the Premier League for Nottingham Forest.

## Tunisia's new coach Renard takes over

Tunisia's new coach Herve Renard said he was motivated by the challenge of taking charge of the team after his predecessor Sabri Lamouchi was fired following a crushing 5-1 defeat by Sweden in their World Cup opener, reports Reuters from Monterrey, Mexico.

"(When) the federation contacted me, I didn't hesitate for a second," he told a press conference on Tuesday after arriving in Monterrey to lead a training session in the evening. "It's a challenge that isn't easy, but it's a motivating challenge."

He said he met briefly with the Tunisia squad on Tuesday afternoon.

## Ghana's Partey loses challenge in court

Ghana midfielder Thomas Partey, who is facing trial on rape charges in Britain, lost a court challenge on Tuesday that would have allowed him to enter Canada for his side's World Cup opener in Toronto, reports AFP from Toronto.

Ottawa denied the Villarreal player a visa over the British charges, blocking him from playing for Ghana against Panama on Wednesday.

Accra filed a request for an injunction in federal court on Tuesday seeking to set aside Ottawa's decision. But broadcaster CBC said Judge Roger Lafreniere had dismissed the challenge.

## Vozinha relishing new 'Insta' fame

When shown the number of Instagram followers he had gained after helping tiny Cape Verde hold off powerhouse Spain in his team's World Cup debut, 40-year-old goalkeeper Vozinha gasped and laughed, in shock, reports AFP from Mexico City.

He was speaking shortly after Monday's stunning 0-0 draw in Atlanta against the European champions, when he had gone from about 50,000 followers to more than 1 million. Less than 24 hours after the game, Vozinha already had nearly 10 million Instagram followers.

## Mexico fans pray to 'Soccer baby Jesus'

In Mexico City thousands of fans are making the pilgrimage to the capital's cathedral to pray to a baby Jesus dressed in a Mexican soccer kit, asking for World Cup victory, reports Reuters from Mexico City.

The tradition dates back to 1970, when Mexico first hosted the tournament, but this year a 'Soccer baby Jesus' has been placed in the country's main cathedral, leading to many more visiting fans paying homage and asking for a miracle.

The dressing of the baby Jesus in a Mexico soccer outfit started at the San Miguel Arcangel church in a poor area of the city 55 years ago.

## Iran's Torabi gets US visa

Iranian forward Mehdi Torabi has received a visa for the United States that will allow him to play the rest of the tournament there, a team official said Tuesday, reports AFP from Tijuana, Mexico.

Torabi, who sat on the bench in the squad's opening 2-2 draw with New Zealand, had originally only been granted permission to enter the country once, setting the team scrambling to find a solution that would allow him to return to face Belgium on Sunday.

# Hosts Canada face ambitious Qatar

VANCOUVER, REUTERS

Qatar face a stern test against co-hosts Canada in their Group B World Cup clash in Vancouver on Thursday but the West Asia side is well prepared and determined to build on their opening result, midfielder Karim Boudiaf said.

Both teams opened their campaigns with draws. Canada were held 1-1 by Bosnia and Herzegovina in Toronto and will again enjoy strong home support while Qatar shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw with Switzerland in California.

Qatar, who have names like Akram Afif and Almoez Ali, arrived at this tournament seeking to improve on their only previous World Cup appearance when they hosted the 2022 edition and exited bottom of their group without a point. They have already bettered that return.

"We are preparing very well for the Canada match," Boudiaf told Qatari newspaper Al Raya ahead of Thursday's game. "We fully understand the importance of this match for us and know it will be an important stage in our tournament journey.

"We know very well that the match will not be easy at all. The Canada team has quality players and will be playing on their home soil and in front of their fans, which gives them extra motivation. But we also have great ambition and determination to deliver our best and achieve a positive result. "We will enter the match with high focus and high morale after the result we achieved in the first round.

Qatar's skilful winger Akram Afif is expected to step up against Canada after a valiant draw against Switzerland. AFP

### On Thursday

**Uzbekistan** vs **Colombia** (7:30 am)

**Czechia** vs **South Africa** (9:30 pm)

### On Friday

**Switzerland** vs **Bosnia & Herzegovina** (12:30 am)

**Canada** vs **Qatar** (3:30 am)

**Mexico** vs **South Korea** (6:30 am)

All timings in IST

# Czechs, South Africa on the lookout for first win

ATLANTA, REUTERS

Defeat in their opening Group A games leaves the Czech Republic and South Africa playing catch-up when they meet in Atlanta on Thursday, and both sides need a vastly improved performance in order to keep their World Cup hopes alive.

South Africa had the privilege of playing in the World Cup opener, but in a game in which they had two players sent off, they fell to a 2-0 loss to co-hosts Mexico. The Czechs, meanwhile, stuck to their route-one, pragmatic style, relying on set-pieces to create any danger against South Korea. They took the lead through Ladislav Krejci's header from a throw-in, but went on to lose 2-1.

After the loss to Mexico in Group A opener, South Africa will need to beat Czechia to keep hopes of progressing further in the tournament. AFP

South Africa are at the World Cup for the first time since hosting it in 2010 and have never progressed beyond the group stage in three previous appearances. Against Mexico, there was little to suggest that statistic is about to change.

Manager Hugo Broos will be without the suspended Sphephelo Sithole and Themba Zwane, and may decide to revert to his usual four at the back rather than the five he used against Mexico.

South Africa will hope that plenty of lessons were learned from that bruising defeat. "Now that we've seen the level of this competition, we'll come back stronger," captain and keeper Ronwen Williams said. "We'll prepare with even greater intensity and continue working hard. There are still two massive games left for us."

The Czechs have waited even longer for their World Cup chance than South Africa, with their last appearance coming 20 years ago.

Their final group game will be against Mexico at the Azteca stadium, so this second match will be the Czech Republic's main target to get three points on the board to give themselves a real chance of remaining in the tournament.

"Against South Africa, we have to get it right," defender Jaroslav Zeleny said.

"Mexico will probably be a tougher challenge afterwards, so we have to give everything in the match."

# World Cup hydration breaks spark backlash

**ATLANTA, AP:** Curacao fans went wild. The Germans were in shock. Livano Comenencia had scored a goal for the smallest nation by population to ever qualify for the World Cup against four-time champion Germany. At 1-1 in Houston a famous upset looked possible. Then came the hydration break.

Curacao lost the initiative, conceding two goals before halftime in what eventually became a 7-1 defeat to the Germans.

"I actually felt sorry for them," former England striker Alan Shearer told The Rest is Football podcast. "They scored and then it was maybe 30 seconds after that it stopped. So it's killed their momentum."

FIFA's new hydration breaks midway through each half - a novelty for this World Cup - were introduced to help players deal with the summer heat in the United States, Canada and Mexico. But critics say they're having unintended consequences, ruining the flow of the game.

Norway players during a hydration break in their World Cup opener against Iraq. REUTERS

IN BRIEF

## Raichur beat Hindustan Friends

▸ Goals by Babu Metkar (10th minute) and Manish Choudary sealed a comfortable 2-0 victory for Raichur District Hockey Association overs Hindustan Friends Club in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship on Wednesday.
**Result:** Raichur: 2 (Babu Metkar 10th, Manish Choudary 32nd) bt Hindustan Friends Club: 0

## Daughter's hand in sisters' reunion

▸ Serena Williams said Tuesday a comment from her daughter inspired her decision to return to play doubles at Wimbledon alongside sister Venus later in June, reports AFP from London.

Speaking in Berlin after she was defeated alongside doubles partner Karolina Muchova in the first round, Williams confirmed she would accept a wildcard to play at Wimbledon for the first time since 2022, alongside long-time doubles partner Venus.

## Aus go 1-0 up against Bangla

▸ Cooper Connolly struck a rapid-fire 47 off 27 balls to steer Australia to a four-wicket win over Bangladesh in the opening T20 international on Wednesday, reports AFP from Chattogram.
**Brief scores:** Bangladesh: 131 all out in 19 overs (Mahedi Hasan 29 n.o.; Matt Renshaw 2-26, Adam Zampa 3-18, Joel Davies 3-17) lt to Australia: 133/6 in 18.2 overs (Cooper Connolly 47; Abdul Gaffar Saqlain 2-32).
**Result:** Australia won by 4 wickets.
**PoM:** Adam Zampa

## Venkatesh 'tricks in ECD FC victory

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Venkatesh Gorawar G (6th, 44th, 57th) hammered a hat-trick to power ECD FC to a 5-0 win over Dharma Raja Union FC in Group 14 of the BDFA C Division League at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday.

Binu Biju (30th) and Soonil Ghimrey (48th) were the other two goal-scorers for the winners.
**Results: Group 9:** Reds United FC: 7 (Vishal Sujay Kumar 8th, Sriram SB 12th, Titus Gabriel 14th, 35th, Ahiram MV 24th pen, Shuchith N 49th, Dhruva Janardhana 54th) bt Active Union FC: 0.
**Group 13:** Afghan FC: 3 (Darshan M 17th, 38th, Deepu Kumar A 46th) bt Sunesa FC: 0; Postal Dept FC: 1 (Abhishek R 44th) bt Sarvagna Nagar FC: 0.
**Group 14:** Universal FC: 2 (Mohammed Sayeed 58th, 60th) bt Bangalore Yellows FC: 0; ECD FC: 5 (Venkatesh Gorawar G 6th, 44th, 57th, Binu Biju 30th, Soonil Ghimrey 48th) bt Dharma Raja Union FC: 0.
**Group 15:** Hampinagar FC: 3 (Isen 8th, Puneet 16th, 49th) drew with Crescent FC: 3 (Surajan S 30th, Suresh Kumar S 40th pen, Thushar C 59th).
**Group 16:** Vivekananda FC: 3 (Motilal Murma 7th, Isan Mondal 31st, Pintu Bandyakar 34th) bt UFA (Banaswadi) FC: 1 (Sheal Adi Saraf 14th).

### ◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**
**Women's T20 WC:** West Indies vs Scotland **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.
**2nd Test:** New Zealand vs England **(Day 2, 3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, SonyLIV**.
**1st T20I:** Australia vs Bangladesh **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

**FOOTBALL**
**World Cup:** Uzbekistan vs Colombia **(7:30 am)**, Czechia vs South Africa **(9:30 pm)**, Switzerland vs Bosnia & Herzegovina **(12:30 am, Friday)**, Canada vs Qatar **(3:30 am)**, Mexico vs South Korea **(6:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Unite8 Sports, Zee5**.

**HOCKEY**
**FIH Pro League:** Ireland vs Spain **(8:30 pm)**, Germany vs India **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar**.

**GOLF**
**US Open:** Day 1 **(9:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

CRICKET SECOND ODI

# India stamp their authority

### Gill, Kishan smash hundreds as hosts clinch series with 170-run win

SIDNEY KIRAN
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Shubman Gill extended his scorching summer form with a sizzling century while the red-hot Ishan Kishan complemented his skipper with an equally fiery ton as India maintained their hegemony over Afghanistan by taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the ODI series here on Wednesday.

In the middle of another purple patch after amassing 732 runs in the recently concluded IPL for Gujarat Titans, which was followed by 126 in the one-off Test versus Afghanistan and an unbeaten 84 in the ensuing opening ODI, skipper Gill, dropping himself to No. 3, smashed 154 off 110 balls in searing conditions at the Ekana Stadium.

Kishan, who has been making every opportunity count since his recall from wilderness to the national team for the New Zealand T20I series in January, strengthened his case to be the second wicketkeeper behind KL Rahul in one-dayers for the foreseeable future with a blistering 125 off 79 balls as India raked up a mammoth 402 all out in 49.5 overs.

Yet to taste victory in any format against India, Afghanistan needed an Herculean effort to erase that blot despite the hosts' bowling attack containing a debutant pacer and another who was just one game old. But Prince Yadav (2/56) and Gurnoor Brar (3/60) didn't appear unfazed, and with senior pacer Arshdeep Singh (3/45) also firing, India bowled out Afghanistan for 232 in 44.3 overs to secure a thumping 170-run win.

Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi made a surprise decision to bowl first despite the mercury touching 40 degrees Celsius. His reasoning was that the pitch would get better to bat as the game progressed, but little did he envision it would be paradise from the start itself. India, whose batters don't need a second invitation on such shirtfronts, accepted the gift gleefully.

First, Rohit Sharma (48) and Gill laid the foundation with an 87-run stand for the second wicket after Yashasvi Jaiswal departed in the second over.

Shubman Gill (right) and Ishan Kishan scored hundreds to help India beat Afghanistan by 170 runs and take a 2-0 lead in the three-match series at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Wednesday. PTI

**SCOREBOARD**

**INDIA**

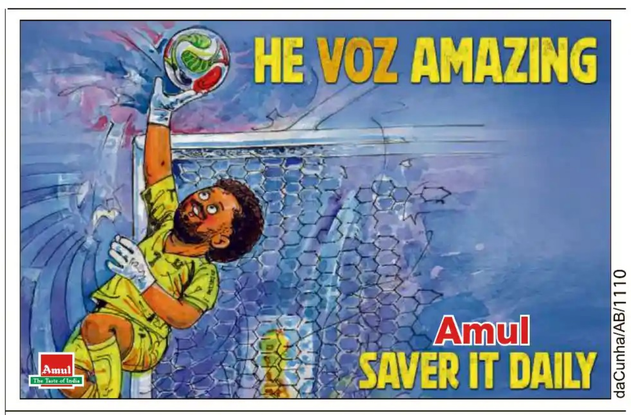
| | |
|---|---|
| Jaiswal c Kharote b Saleem | 4 (9b, 1x4) |
| Rohit b Rashid | 48 (39b, 6x4, 2x6) |
| Gill c Rasooli b Kharote | 154 (22x4, 2x6) |
| Kishan c sub b Kharote | 125 (79b, 14x4, 7x6) |
| Shreyas c Zadran b Kharote | 26 (24b, 1x4, 1x6) |
| Rahul c Zadran b Kharote | 0 (1b) |
| Sundar c Gurbaz b Rashid | 19 (19b, 1x4) |
| Brar c Zadran b Rashid | 3 (7b) |
| Arshdeep c Rashid b Ghazanfar | 3 (4b) |
| Kuldeep (not out) | 3 (3b) |
| Prince (run out) | 5 (5b) |
| Extras (LB-8, NB-1, W-3) | 12 |
| Rashid c Rohit b Arshdeep | 12 (12b, 2x4) |
| Ghazanfar c Shreyas b Arshdeep | 1 (2b) |
| Saleem b Brar | 9 (19b, 2x4) |
| Sami (not out) | 2 (14b) |
| Extras (LB-2, W-5, NB-2) | 9 |
| **TOTAL (all out, 49.5 overs)** | **402** |

**Fall of wickets:** 1-9 (Jaiswal), 2-96 (Rohit), 3-320 (Kishan), 4-360 (Gill), 5-360 (Rahul), 6-371 (Shreyas), 7-387 (Brar), 8-392 (Arshdeep), 9-396 (Sundar).
**Bowling:** Ghazanfar 10-1-69-1 (w-2), Saleem 8-0-75-1, Sami 8.5-0-90-0 (nb-1), Kharote 10-0-76-4 (w-1), Rashid 8-0-48-3, Shahidi 5-0-36-0.

**AFGHANISTAN**

| | |
|---|---|
| Gurbaz c Rahul b Brar | 41 (33b, 7x4, 1x6) |
| Zadran c Prince b Arshdeep | 21 (31b, 3x4) |
| Atal lbw Sundar | 42 (50b, 5x4, 1x6) |
| Shah c Brar b Prince | 79 (89b, 8x4) |
| Rasooli (retd hurt) | 6 (6b, 1x4) |
| Shahidi b Brar | 4 (2b, 1x4) |
| Kharote b Prince | 6 (11b) |
| **TOTAL (all out, 44.3 overs)** | **232** |

**Fall of wickets:** 1-52 (Gurbaz), 2-71 (Zadran), 3-128 (Atal), 3-136 (Rasooli, retd hurt), 4-140 (Shahidi), 5-170 (Kharote), 6-188 (Rashid), 7-190 (Ghazanfar), 8-220 (Saleem), 9-232 (Shah).
**Bowling:** Arshdeep 9-0-45-3, Prince 7.3-0-56-2 (w-2, nb-1), Brar 10-0-60-3 (w-3, nb-1), Kuldeep 10-0-42-0, Sundar 7-0-24-1, Jaiswal 1-0-3-0.
**Result:** India won by 170 runs.
**Series:** India lead 3-match series 2-0. **PoM:** Shubman Gill.
**Third ODI:** June 20 (Chennai).




daCunha/AB/1110

# All-round India A crush Afghans to enter final

**DAMBULLA, PTI:** A compelling all-round performance helped India A thrash Afghanistan A by 101 runs here on Wednesday, bolstering their chances of making the tri-series final.

After amassing 319 for nine riding fifties by skipper Tilak Varma, Priyansh Arya and Kumar Kushagra, India A bowlers produced a unified show to bundle out Afghanistan A for mere 218 in 36.5 overs.

Nishant Sindhu was the pick of the bowlers as he returned 4/31 from his 6.5 overs, while pacer Yash Thakur claimed 2/48 from his seven overs. Anshul Kamboj, Vipraj Nigam, Suryansh Shedge and Anukul Roy claimed one wicket apiece.

For Afghanistan, Bahir Shah (57 off 52 balls; 4x4, 1x6) and Faisal Shinozada (46) provided some resistance but most of their batters failed to convert their starts.

The victory gave India A two crucial points to take their tally to four, but more importantly, helped them make it to the summit clash after losing each of their last two games.

It was Thakur who provided India A with the first breakthrough, dismissing Hassan Eisakhil (14) in the third over when he had the Afghan A opener caught by Ruturaj Gaikwad.

India did not have to wait long for the second wicket, as No. 3 Khalid Taniwal fell to Kamboj for 13 in the sixth over and skipper Imran Mir's wicket came Sidhu's way in the 10th over.

Shinozada and Bahir added 87 for the fourth wicket to stabilise the innings for Afghanistan, but they were both dismissed in quick succession which derailed their chase completely.

Earlier, Tilak (59), Kushagra (58) and Arya (58) helmed Indian innings after Afghanistan elected to bowl on a rather sluggish Dambulla pitch.

India were quick off the blocks with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (38, 28b) and Arya adding 75 runs for the opening wicket in just eight overs.

Nishant Sindhu chipped in with an unbeaten 21 and claimed 4/31 as India A trounced Afghanistan A by 101 runs to move into the tri-series final. PTI

**Brief scores**: India A: 319/9 in 50 overs (Tilak Varma 59, Priyansh Arya 58, Kumar Kushagra 58, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 38, Ruturaj Gaekwad 30, Vipraj Nigam 30; Abdollah Ahmadzai 2-62, Faridoon Dawoodzai 2-74, Farmanullah 2-62) bt Afghanistan A: 218 all out in 36.5 overs (Faisal Shinozada 46, Bahir Shah 57, Imran Mir 32; Nishant Sindhu 4-31, Yash Thakur 2-48) by 101 runs. **PoM:** Nishant Sindhu.
**India's next match (final):** vs winner of the match between SL A & Afghanistan A.

# India complete demolition job

### Shafali, Smriti star in 95-run thrashing of Netherlands

LEEDS, PTI

Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma sizzled with the bat as India coasted to an emphatic 95-run win over the Netherlands in their Women's T20 World Cup match here on Wednesday.

The Indian opening duo of Mandhana (74 off 47 balls) and Shafali (55 off 38 balls) slayed a hapless Netherlands attack to fire India to 209/5, their highest total in the tournament history.

The pair shared a 115-run stand off 70 balls after Netherlands put the opposition in to bat.

The Netherlands were never in the run chase despite promising knocks from skipper Babette de Leede (28 off 27 balls) and Sterre Kallis (18 off 13 balls) before being bundled out for 114 in 17.3 overs.

From India's point of view, the biggest scare came when off-spinner Shreyanka Patil was stretchered off the field after twisting her ankle while fielding off her very first ball of the evening.

India next face a much tougher opponent in South Africa in Manchester on June 21.

On her World Cup debut, pacer Nandani Sharma had a productive outing. She had opener Heather Siegers caught at cover for a memorable first wicket in her first ICC game.

Deepti Sharma, star with the ball against Pakistan, stuck in her first over having Phebe Molkenboer caught at mid-off.

Netherlands' de Leede and Kallis played a few crisp strokes before departing in quick succession.

It was a procession thereafter as India completed the formalities. The wily Shree Charani was too good for the opposition's middle and lower-order and was also on a hat-trick in the 17th over. She was all over Netherlands after trapping Robine Rijke in her third over.

Kallis played down the wrong line to be castled by Shafali Verma while de Leede was stumped after missing a short ball from Nandani on the charge.

Earlier, it was a second successive fifty-plus score for Mandhana while Shafali completed her maiden tournament half-century. Shafali was more aggressive than Mandhana in the powerplay during which India collected 59 runs.

Smriti Mandhana scored a brilliant 74 to help India beat Netherlands by 95 runs in Leeds. AFP

**SCORE BOARD**

**INDIA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mandhana c Zwilling b de Lange | 74 |
| Shafali c Zwilling b Siegers | 55 |
| Jemimah c de Leede b van den Raad | 19 |
| Richa (not out) | 20 |
| Yastika st de Leede b de Lange | 3 |
| Harmanpreet c Rijke b Zwilling | 12 |
| Deepti (not out) | 10 |
| Extras (W-14, LB-1, NB-1) | 16 |
| **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs)** | **209** |

**Fall of wickets:** 1-115, 2-162, 3-162, 4-168, 5-199.
**Bowling:** Iris Zwilling 4-0-41-1, Heather Siegers 2-0-31-1, Isabel van der Woning 2-0-25-0, Myrthe van den Raad 4-0-37-1, Silver Siegers 3-0-32-0, Caroline de Lange 4-0-32-2, Frederique Overdijk 1-0-10-0.

**NETHERLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Siegers c Mandhana b Nandini | 21 |
| Molkenboer c Jemimah b Deepti | 15 |
| Babette st Richa b Nandini | 28 |
| Sterre b Shafali | 18 |
| Robine lbw Charani | 8 |
| Frederique c Mandhana b Charani | 9 |
| Zwilling c Rodrigues b Charani | 8 |
| van den Raad c Ghosh b Charani | 0 |
| Siegers st Richa b Shafali | 1 |
| Caroline (not out) | 0 |
| Isabel c Rodrigues b Shafali | 0 |
| Extras (W-5, LB-1) | 6 |
| **TOTAL (all out, 17.3 overs)** | **114** |

**Fall of wickets:** 1-34, 2-50, 3-77, 4-96, 5-98, 6-113, 7-113, 8-114, 9-114.
**Bowling:** Kranti Gaud 4-0-26-0, Nandani Sharma 3-0-22-2, Shafali Verma 3.2-0-20-3, Shreyanka Patil 0.1-0-0-0, Shree Charani 4-0-19-4, Deepti Sharma 3-0-26-1.
**Result:** India won by 95 runs. **PoM:** Smriti Mandhana. **India's next match:** 21 June (South Africa).
**Brief scores:** Bangladesh: 77/8 in 20 overs (Nigar Sultana 27; Kim Garth 2-18, Sophie Molineux 2-14, Ellyse Perry 2-14) lt to Australia:78/1 in 9.3 overs (Georgia Voll 45). **Result:** Aus won by 9 wkts. **PoM:** Ellyse Perry.

# Anmol, Shriyanshi Rakshitha through

MACAU, PTI

Anmol Kharb led the charge in the women's singles with a straight-game win as three Indian shuttlers progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Fresh from a quarterfinal finish at the Denmark Challenge last month, eighth-seeded Anmol looked sharp as she brushed aside Indonesia's Mutiara Ayu Puspitasari 21-13, 21-16 in just 42 minutes to book her place in the last 16 round.

The 19-year-old world No. 51 Indian will next face Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei.

Rakshitha Sree Ramraj, world No. 53, also enjoyed a fine outing, defeating Malaysia's Kisona Selvaduray 21-16, 24-22 in 46 minutes.

She will meet South Korea's Kim Min Sun in the pre-quarterfinals.

World No. 49 Shriyanshi Valishetty came through an all-Indian contest against Tasnim Mir, prevailing 21-18, 19-21, 21-15.

Shriyanshi will next take on South Korea's Kim Min Ji.

However, it was the end of the road for Shreya Lele, who went down 12-21, 15-21 to fourth seed Han Qian Xi of China in 34 minutes.

Aakarshi Kashyap also bowed out after a spirited fight against South Korea's Kim Min Ji.

After dropping the opening game, Aakarshi levelled the match by taking the second before eventually losing 17-21, 21-18, 17-21.

In the men's singles, Rounak Chouhan rallied from a game down to beat Chinese Taipei's Wu Zhe Ying 18-21, 21-15, 21-19 in a gripping contest.

S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, however, failed to build on a strong start and suffered a 21-11, 18-21, 16-21 defeat to Huang Ping-Hsien of Chinese Taipei.

India's Anmol Kharb beat Indonesia's Mutiara Ayu Puspitasari 21-13, 21-16 to march into the pre-quarterfinals of the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament.

## India down Mongolia to reach quarters

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** India scored a hard-fought 3-1 win over Mongolia to book their place in the quarterfinals of the World Team Snooker Championship in Guangdong, China on Wednesday.

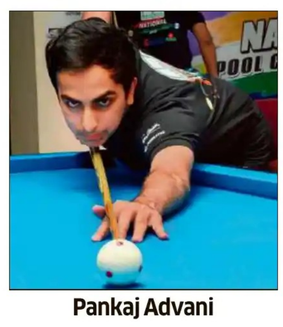
The nervy victory helped the former champions set up a last-eight meeting with China B, who they had lost to narrowly in the league stage on the opening day. The hosts overcame Singapore 3-1 in the pre-quarterfinal.

Earlier in the day, India were too good for the lowly Turkey, scoring a lop-sided 3-0 win in their final Group B league match to advance to the knockouts.

After a gruelling battle with Nasanbuyan Orgil, Aditya Mehta secured the win to put India ahead in the last-16 clash against Mongolia. Pankaj Advani made a break of 51 en route to a 70-6 win over Sergelen Batdelger.

Ketan Chawla, playing his first match of the tournament, and Advani then went down 54-70 in the doubles to give Mongolia a look-in. But multiple-time World champion Advani returned to score a facile 67-37 win over Orgil to seal the tie.

In the morning, Advani kickstarted the rout against Turkey, registering a comfortable 60-39 win over Ismail Turker. Aditya Mehta outclassed Enes Bakirci 95-17 to give India a 2-0 lead.
**Results: Pre-quarters:** India bt Mongolia 3-1 (Aditya Mehta bt Nasanbuyan Orgil 65-46, Pankaj Advani bt Sergelen Batdelger 70 (51)-6, Advani/ Ketan Chawla lt to Orgil/ Batdelger 54-70, Advani bt Orgil 67-37).
**League: Group B:** India bt Turkey 3-0 (Pankaj Advani bt Ismail Turker 60-39; Aditya Mehta bt Enes Bakirci 95-17; Advani/ Mehta bt Turker/ Bakirci 90-13).



Pankaj Advani

# Zara, Lavanya card 64 each to share lead on opening day

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Amateur Zara Anand **(in pic)** and pro Lavanya Jadon carded four-under 64 each to take an early one-shot lead at the end of the opening day of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour Leg-8 at the Bangalore Golf Club here on Wednesday.

Following a topsy-turvy front nine, that had two bogeys and three birdies, Zara found her rhythm after making the turn by shooting four birdies and a bogey. Lavanya also started slow with one birdie and two early bogeys but made five birdies on the back nine.

In the chasing pack are Durga Nittur and Smriti Bhargav who carded three-under 65s ahead of Anvvi Dahhiya and Mahreen Bhatia at two-under 66 on the par-68 course.

**Standings (after 18 holes): 64:** Zara Anand, Lavanya Jadon; **65:** Durga Nittur, Smriti Bhargav; **66:** Anvvi Dahhiya, Mahreen Bhatia.

# Scheffler seeks career Grand Slam

Scottie Scheffler

SOUTHAMPTON (USA), AFP

While top-ranked Scottie Scheffler chases a career Grand Slam at this week's US Open, European golfers can achieve an unprecedented treble if one of them wins the title at Shinnecock.

The year's third major tournament begins Thursday over the windy 7,440-yard (6,800-meter) Long Island layout, where lightning-fast greens and thick rough add to the challenge.

"A lot of it just comes down to execution, but I think patience is a large part of it as well," said Scheffler.

Much of the focus is upon the American, who could become only the seventh player to complete the career Slam with a victory on Sunday, which is his 30th birthday.

"Would it be a dream to win the US Open? Of course," Scheffler said. "But at the end of the day, the Grand Slam has never been a motivating factor for me. I always just wanted to be the best version of myself and that got me this far."

Golfers from the United Kingdom have won the first two majors of the year, second-ranked Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland defending his Masters crown in April after completing his career Slam last year and England's Aaron Rai taking last month's PGA Championship.

It's a feat not seen in the four-major era since the Masters began in 1934, and another European victory would match the continent's best run of three majors in a year since 2014.

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